

Euphoric Ramon supporters celebrate triumph

ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

A WAVE of euphoria and shouts of "Unbelievable!" swept through the basement crowded with Haim Ramon's supporters as the results of the first exit polls flashed across the television screens, showing Ramon with 49% of the vote.

Although it was still unclear whether the list would cross the 50% threshold, it was clear the Ramon forces had triumphed in the bitter intra-family struggle with the forces of the Labor establishment.

The activists rejoicing together and embracing one another in the small room in Mapam Party headquarters reflected the strange bed-fellows that Haim Ramon had drawn together.

Bearded Shas members rubbed shoulders with Meretz supporters with long hair and earrings, both male and female.

Najeeb Aborakia, who campaigned for Ramon in the Arab sector, strained to see the television screen. "Let me see," he cried. "I've got to see Haberfeld's face."

A companion told him: "Hey don't worry about his face. You're

not going to have to look at it anymore."

The victory was clearly sweetest for the Meretz politicians, who had rarely enjoyed an outright victory in an election.

"We accomplished this - the mistakes of the Labor party accomplished this, but most of all, the spirit of the times accomplished this. Tonight, we can say that we represent the spirit of the times," said a triumphant Shulamit Aloni.

Labor MK Amir Peretz, who was expelled from his party after challenging Haim Haberfeld in the Histadrut primaries and then joining the Ramon camp, said that last night's results "made the struggle worthwhile."

Ran Cohen of Meretz called the results a victory for "all the oppressed - Arabs, women, those of Middle Eastern descent."

The apparent victory, he said, put a "heavy weight" on his shoulders. "No longer can we just complain about oppression and discrimination," he said. "Now we are in a position to make sure that it ends."



Incumbent Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld casts his vote yesterday in Givatayim. (Israel Sun)

Election passes quietly in haredi neighborhood

HERB KEINON

IF the importance of an issue in the haredi world is judged by the coverage it receives in the haredi press, yesterday's Histadrut election should have been the focus of activity in Jerusalem's haredi neighborhoods.

But the atmosphere in Geula and the adjoining Bucharan Quarter, a Shas stronghold, gave no indication that anything dramatic was unfolding. There were no large wall posters either supporting Shas or damning them, no megaphones calling on people to vote or block others from voting. It was business as usual.

Haim Ramon's orchestration of the unlikely Shas-Meretz minute has kept the editorial and headline writers in the haredi press busy for weeks. The lead headline in yesterday's *Yated Ne'eman*, the *Degel Hatorah* daily that has led the castigation of Shas, read: "Rabbi Eliezer Schach: The association with the left - destruction for the community of Israel."

The only campaign literature in sight in the haredi areas, however, were a few well-trampled leaflets

on the street that read: "To earn a living, Jews are forced to desecrate Shabbat. To preserve their jobs, Jews must turn the sanctified into the profane. Don't evade your responsibility, support the list with Shas representatives who are obliged to Tora and the great sages of Israel."

The polling place in a school building in the Bucharan Quarter was quiet. There were no lines of voters, no demonstrations, no heated political arguments. By 3 p.m., only 13 percent of the eligible voters in the area had voted. The sound in the halls was not of people clamoring to vote, but of girls reciting their lessons.

Yisrael Gedanyan, the official Shas observer at the polling station, said the quiet belied a surge of Shas activity on the street. He said that a fleet of 35 cars was rented by Shas to bring out the vote, and that Shas activists were phoning all Shas-affiliated Histadrut members to make sure they cast their ballots.

"Many Shas people are voting

in a Histadrut election today for the first time," Gedanyan said. "Take my parents. This is the first time in 40 years they are voting."

The reason Gedanyan's parents voted, and the reason he agreed to take a day off from study to work at the polls, was because Rabbi Ovadia Yosef said to vote for Ramon's list.

Asked if it isn't a little uncomfortable working for a list that includes Meretz, Gedanyan said, "If it is good for religious Jews, I don't mind working with [Shulamit] Aloni. Rav Ovadia said it will be beneficial for the religious worker to go with this list. If he told me to jump off a bridge I would do it, so it's no big deal for me to vote for Ramon."

Gedanyan attributed the lack of election posters and propaganda in the Bucharan Quarter to Shas's recognition that there is great opposition in the haredi world to its alliance with Meretz.

"We don't want to cause any confrontations," he said. "We just want people to come quietly and vote."

Election day - a largely apathetic affair

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

BY yesterday afternoon, only some 20 percent of the 1.6 million eligible voters had cast their ballots in the Histadrut elections, far less than expected after the stormy campaign.

The elections appeared to arouse little interest on the street, with the main drama of the day occurring in Yehud. Voters in the town were prevented by police from reaching the polling station, located near Uzi Meshulam's house.

The central elections committee is considering canceling or postponing the elections in Yehud, at the request of the local elections committee.

In Lod, two boxes filled with ballot notes saying "Emet - Labor led by Rabin" were found at the polling station, apparently left over from the Knesset elections. In Beersheba, campaign workers at one station reported that the their Labor ballot notes had been stolen, and new ones had to be delivered from nearby towns.

In the morning, the polling station near Tel Aviv City Hall was almost deserted, apart from three elderly people. One said she would support Ramon "because he looks like such a nice young man."

Her neighbor, who came with her, said: "This is exactly the reason why I will not vote for Ramon. He is too young to understand anything about the pensioners' needs. In the past 30 or 40 years I don't remember him doing anything for poor people or old folks."

Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld left home at 8 a.m. for a tour of Hadera, where many teenage activists had converged. After a talk with Rami Zilberstein, Labor's candidate for local council secretary, Haberfeld proceeded to Hod Hasharon, where he met with labor council secretary Haim Mizrahi.

Asked about the pre-election polls that had predicted a landslide victory for Ramon, Haberfeld said "there are surveys and there are feelings. I tend to trust feelings more."

Haberfeld went on to Givatayim, where he voted at the fire station. As photographers cried "Wait!" Haberfeld stopped with his hand suspended over the ballot box, saying "This is not the last time I'm voting for the Histadrut, nor is it the last time that I'm voting as secretary-general." He added he expected to get a majority of 53% in the elections.

Ramon voted in Ramat Hasharon in the morning, then traveled to Haifa, where he visited a few polling stations, most of which were nearly deserted.

Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet, who toured the polling booths at Ma'aleh Adumim together with Labor MK Emanuel Zissman, said Ramon would not be able to return to Labor.

"He who stabbed Labor in the back and then twisted the knife cannot be expected to be taken back into his party," Shetreet said.

Pension funds' actuarial deficit reaches NIS 36b.

JOSE ROSENFIELD

THE pension funds' actuarial deficit is estimated to have grown to NIS 36 billion by the end of last year, but the funds' 1993 performance did not worsen their economic condition. Meir Shavit, the supervisor of capital markets and insurance, announced yesterday.

Shavit said that dealing with the funds' financial difficulties should be a major priority for the Histadrut, which controls most of the funds, the government and the public.

The Treasury is currently putting the finishing touches on a

pension fund reform and recovery plan, which will enable the funds to meet their obligations to pensioners in the future. The plan has been delayed due to disagreements between the Treasury and the Histadrut on each party's share of the financing. The Treasury also held back the plan to avoid making the reform a campaign issue in the Histadrut elections.

Despite the state comptroller's recommendation last year that Hevrat Ha'ovdim compensate its

pension funds for mismanaging their investments, the Treasury has not acted.

According to the Treasury spokesman, the investments were legal and approved by the government. As a result, the issue of compensation has been relegated to the Histadrut's own discretion.

Between 1970 and 1983, when inflation skyrocketed, G'mul, the investment arm of the Histadrut pension funds, lost about NIS 300 million (in 1992 prices) after buying unlinked bonds from companies controlled by Hevrat Ha'ovdim and Bank Hapoalim.

Ramon's reforms could change shape of economy

ANALYSIS

NEIL COHEN

IF Haim Ramon keeps his campaign promises, or even most of them, it will mean major changes in the Histadrut.

Ramon will attempt to push through wholesale reform of Kupat Holim Clalit, attacking its giant deficit by selling assets and cutting superfluous administrative personnel who owe their jobs to the party. And he will naturally attempt to pass his original version of the national health insurance bill, which would divert health fund members' unitary tax (*mas ahid*) payments from the Histadrut apparatus to the health fund itself.

Applying his declared liberal principles to Clalit and the Histadrut pension funds will weaken much of the labor federation's traditional power base. These same liberal principles may also lead Ramon into conflict with some of the powerful workers' groups, if he does not side with their wage demands and industrial action.

Many of his plans will require Knesset support, but if Ramon is able to ram them through, not only will the labor federation look different by the next Histadrut elections in 1998, but large parts of the Israeli economy will, too.

The dead hand of the Histadrut will be removed from large parts of the economy. For example, the shadow of Hevrat Ha'ovdim will be lifted from Bank Hapoalim and from other assets whose ownership should have long since been in private hands.

Pension and health-care reform, though perhaps initially costly and painful, should lead to a freer and more efficient economy, from which the taxpayers can only benefit.

Winning numbers

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 3, 14, 17, 31, 40 and 44, and the additional number was 49.

Shaare Zedek Hospital, its board of directors, management, and staff
mourn the untimely death of
our long-time friend and supporter
STANLEY STERN
Member of the international board of directors.
We extend our sincerest condolences to his family.

With deep sorrow, we mourn the loss of our dear friend
LESLIE GOLD
Sadie and Joe Lebetkin
Letty Winter and Family
Eileen and Bernard Young
and Family
Shaul Fink
Zena and Wolfe Hoffman
Milly and Mark Jackson

With deep sorrow, we announce the death of
LESLIE GOLD
Beloved husband, father and grandfather
The funeral will take place today, Wednesday,
May 11, at 3:30 p.m., at Herzliya Cemetery.
Shiva at 29 Hamessila, Herzliya B.
The Family

We regret to announce the passing of
LEON RUDOLF
on May 9, 1994, in London.
The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, May 11, at 10 a.m.,
from the Sanhedria Funeral Parlor to Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.
Wife: Freda
Daughters and Sons-in-Law: Angela and Eli Reuven
Marion and Michael Silman
Sister: Renee Warwick, London
Grandchildren and great-grandson
Shiva until Erev Shavuot (May 15, 1994) at 33/2 Yigal Street, Ramot 02, Jerusalem,
Tel. 02-862869.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today, 1 p.m., at the YMCA, King David Street. Max Weissglas will speak on the European Community.

ARRIVALS

For the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University: From Argentina: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Choupi. From South Africa: Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lazarus. From the US: Mrs. Joni Brown.

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation
deeply mourns the passing of

HAIM BAR-LEV

and extends condolences to the family.

We shall forever honor his memory
as a good friend of the Foundation,
and of the German Social Democratic Party.

Emunah of America
mourns the loss of its beloved
Honorary Vice President

IRENE ZELIKOW ז"ל

long-time leader of Emunah in the United States

Heartfelt condolences to Nat and the family.
May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Sondra Fisch

Rosalie Reich

The Chairman and Members of the
World-Presidium of WOJAC
deeply mourn the passing of

SHLOMO TOUSSIA-COHEN Adv.

Chairman of WOJAC's World Executive

Heartfelt condolences to his wife, Mrs. Elka
Toussia-Cohen, to his son, Arie Toussia-Cohen Adv.,
and to the family.

Leon J. Tamman

Chairman of the World Presidium

F.I.B.I. Holding Company Ltd.

mourns the death of the
Chairman of the Board of Directors

SHLOMO

TOUSSIA-COHEN Adv. ז"ל

and extends its sympathy to the family

The First International Bank

The Directorate, Management and Staff
of the bank mourn the passing of

SHLOMO
TOUSSIA-COHEN Adv. ז"ל

and extend condolences to the family

Disappointed Shamai congratulates Ramon

HERB KEINON

THE Likud's Ya'acov Shamai, who according to the exit polls received 16 percent of the vote, arrived at a subdued Metzudat Ze'ev 30 minutes after the television exit polls were broadcast.

"I'm disappointed," he told Israel Television. "I want to take the opportunity to congratulate Haim Ramon on his success. It is not an insignificant one."

Likud MK Ovadia Eli said it is obvious the party's strength in

the Histadrut was weakened, but that he had no regrets about the party's decision to run Shamai for the third consecutive time.

"Shamai was a good candidate, an authentic leader of the workers," Eli said. "But there was a tide in the elections, a desire for change. This tide was evident inside Labor, which lost a lot of its strength, and this phenomenon was also evident within our party. This is a new fad in Israeli politics."

240,000 pupils begin taking 'bagrut' exams

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE *bagrut* (matriculation) exams for the current school year began yesterday, with the exam in Hebrew composition. Pupils were required to choose one of four subjects and write an essay on it. All told, some 240,000 high school pupils will be taking this

year's exams. The Education Ministry has had 430 different exams printed. Some 45 were written in Arabic and another 60 are translated into Arabic. A total of 16 exams - in chemistry, physics, and math - have been translated into Russian. In some subjects, new immigrants will be allowed to take oral exams.

The ministry said it has made special preparations to accommodate some 10,000 test-takers with learning disabilities, but the Knesset education committee this week raised serious doubts about the ministry's ability to deal with these students.

Meanwhile, the ministry released statistics concerning last year's *bagrut* exams. According to the figures, about 10 percent more pupils studied for the *bagrut* in 1993 than in 1992.

But while 56.92% passed the exams in 1992, in 1993 only 55.69% passed. The ministry said the difference is insignificant, and the similar percentages could be viewed as positive, given that high schools last year allowed more pupils to take the exams.

Campaign to encourage use of bicycle helmets

LIAT COLLINS

MORE than 1,000 bicyclists a year are seriously injured or killed in road accidents, 40 percent of them children under 14.

These are two of the figures released yesterday by the Road Safety Authority, as a part of its campaign to persuade children to wear helmets when bicycling and their parents to encourage them.

Although road safety experts estimate that up to 90% of head injuries could be prevented by wearing a helmet, only 5% of bicyclists here wear them, according to RSA spokeswoman Daniella Gonen. Most accidents occur on streets close to the victims' homes, not on main roads, she noted.

Before the campaign, two studies were carried out on schoolchildren and adults around the country. The studies show that children consider helmets unfashionable, uncomfortable and unnecessary, and are not prepared to buy them because their friends don't wear them.

The campaign aimed at children hopes to turn the helmet into an attractive, accepted fashion accessory while the campaign aimed at adults will emphasize the helmet's effectiveness.

Sewage plant breakdown causes death of fish

Thousands of fish have been killed by effluence flowing from the Migdal Ha'emek sewage treatment plant, according to a Nature Reserves Authority spokeswoman. Large quantities of raw sewage have flowed from the plant into the nearby Mizra River and from there into the Baruch Pool.

We regret that on Monday May 9, the Moshe Nativ, Director

JERUSALEM COR An error unfortunate John the Baptist in The question to the p (and not h

Transfer of authority in Jericho awaits arrival of Palestinian Police

JON IMMANUEL and LAMIA LAHOUD

THE transfer of civil authority to the Palestinians in Jericho has been delayed until the first Palestinian police officers enter the town, both Israeli and Palestinian sources said yesterday.

"We expected to take over the civil administration today, but the Israelis insisted that the police officers should enter Jericho first," said Amin Makboul, of Nablus, a member of the liaison committee for the transfer of civil authority in Jericho and Gaza.

"The Israelis also want to wait until Yasser Arafat appoints the 24 members of the autonomy council," he added.

Civil administration head Brig-Gen. Gadi Zohar confirmed this at a joint press conference in Jericho with Jamil Tarifi, who heads the Palestinian team on the liaison committee.

"It makes sense that we first want to see a Palestinian authority appointed to which we can transfer the authority in Gaza and Jericho," he said. He also implied that the transfer of civil

and security authority should take place simultaneously.

"The transfer of authority will be implemented the day and the hour determined by the security coordination committee," Zohar told the press, in an army camp which is to be transferred to the Palestinian police.

Tarifi said that he understood by this that the buildings would be handed over as soon as the police arrive.

Zohar and Tarifi were greeted warmly as they toured some of 22 buildings to be handed over to the Palestinians.

The atmosphere was tense with anticipation, as many in the street were convinced that the police would begin arriving, although just as many were convinced they would not.

Soldiers in the police station overlooking the main square fired round rubber bullets in the air to prevent people from coming too close, but some youths managed to place branches on the fence.

The coordinating teams in Jericho split into three groups, touring health, licensing and tax offices, tourist sites and national parks, assessing properties, and taking inventories of equipment to be handed over.

Some 800 police are expected in Jericho. More than 100 were to arrive yesterday, "but their entry has been delayed because 250 policemen from Iraq do not have Egyptian or Jordanian passports or documents," said a high-ranking Fatah leader in the territories.

He explained that according to the terms of the autonomy agreement, all police officers from outside the territories must have valid Egyptian or Jordanian documents. The policemen from Iraq only have military documents, he said. But he was confident that the security subcommittee for the deployment of the Palestinian police in Jericho would be able to solve the problem.

The policemen will move into

the military base at the civil administration headquarters. They will also take over the police station in the center of Jericho.

"We have no problems with the Israelis concerning the transfer of civil authority. They supplied us with all their data, files, and information," Tarifi said. "As soon as the police arrive, we are ready to take over."

He said the Palestinians have received orders from Tunis to let the Palestinians working in the civil administration take responsibility for running civilian affairs until department heads are appointed.

He said all Palestinians working for the civil administration will keep their jobs, but the Israeli department heads would be replaced by Palestinian appointees.

Tarifi and Zohar said that even after the transfer is completed, the liaison committee will continue to coordinate.

Until the end of this month, Israel will continue to supply all services to the Palestinians, Zohar said.

First group of Palestinian policemen arrives in Gaza

JON IMMANUEL and ALON PINKAS

THE first 120 uniformed Palestinian police entered the Gaza Strip from Egypt in buses and trucks yesterday, but were delayed on the Israeli side of the border until late last night to receive identity cards.

They were expected to move last night to their base at the former civil administration building in Deir el-Balah.

Gen. Nasser Yousef, the chief of the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho, told a press conference on his arrival: "This is a historic day for the Palestinian people, the first step on the way to independence."

Yousef, wearing the khaki uniform and green beret of the new police force, was accompanied by Marwan Kanafani, an aide to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

He stood next to Brig-Gen. Yom-Tov Samia, the Israeli head of the Israeli-Palestinian security coordinating committee responsible for determining the timetable for the transfer of authority. "The transfer should be as smooth as possible," Samia said.

Army sources in the Gaza Strip said yesterday that

full transfer of power could only be completed when the PLO appoints the members of the Palestinian Authority's governing council.

However, the entry of the first contingent of the Gaza police clears the way to begin the transfer authority there. The PLO sources in Jericho last night said it would begin today, although the IDF this was not certain. "The situation changes from hour to hour," a military source said.

The first contingent of Gaza forces is expected to be followed swiftly by backup forces, these are still a small part of the 7,000 retrained Palestine Liberation Army troops that are to enter from abroad.

Up to 700 uniformed police are encamped across the Allenby Bridge. These are former soldiers in the Jordanian Badr Brigade and the Iraqi Akasr Brigade. Several hundred more are on their way to Gaza from Sudan, according to PLO sources in Tunis.

Meanwhile, in South Africa, Arafat blamed Israel for the apparent delay in bringing the police in. "The troops are there... Who can ask for one-day delay to return to his homeland?" he told Israel Television's Channel One.

IAF bombs Jibril bases in Lebanon

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

AIR force jets yesterday attacked several strongholds of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), near Nueime, north of Sidon.

An IDF statement said the pilots reported accurate rocket hits on bases used as "training facilities and launching pads for activity against Israel," and that all planes had returned safely to base.

Lebanese police said at least two people were killed and eight wounded, including a 3-year-old girl.

According to eyewitnesses, two planes flew low over the Mediterranean, then veered east to strike bases of the PFLP-GC in the hills near Nueime. At least four rockets were fired in the first strike, and two in a second two other planes an hour later. Another rocket was fired in a third raid at 5:45 p.m., police said.

The IDF confirmed that a third strike took place late in the afternoon.

The PFLP-GC, headed by Ahmed Jibril, is one of the rejectionist front organizations. It is headquartered in Syria, but operates against Israeli and South Lebanese Army targets from north of the security zone.

Work on implementing economic pact continues despite uncertainty

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE prospect that there may be no one to take over the economic functions in Gaza and Jericho at the end of the month weighed heavily on Treasury budget director David Brodet yesterday, as government officials met to draft legislation to implement the economic accord with the Palestinians.

To ensure a smooth transition, representatives of the ministries affected by the accord met yesterday to begin drafting the bills, which will reflect required policy changes and the transfer of responsibility for various activities. The Customs Department and the Ministry of Industry and Trade were asked to draft the changes in import policy resulting from Palestinian assumption of authority over imports into the autonomous areas.

The Transportation Ministry was asked to redraft regulations

relating to imported new and used cars, since the Palestinians will be allowed to set their own duties on car imports, which may differ from Israel's.

The Energy Ministry is to draft regulations and standards for imported petroleum products.

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry will make arrangements to transfer the National Insurance Institute deductions of Palestinians working in Israel to the Palestinian social security authority.

The Agriculture Ministry is to prepare the supervisory system that will ensure the maintenance of agreed veterinary and agricultural standards.

Brodet said he expects the period following the transfer of authority to be one of "birth pangs" until the newly established Palestinian institutions are up and running.

US keeps Syria on list of terror supporters

HILLEL KUTTLER WASHINGTON

DESPITE having joined the peace process, Syria has again been classified by the US as a state supporter of terrorism.

In the annual "Patterns of Global Terrorism" report, released yesterday, the State Department said that while it lacks evidence directly implicating Syrian officials in terrorism, Damascus "continues to provide support to and safe haven for several groups that engage in international terrorism."

It said Syria has "not supported" Lebanon's attempts to control Hizbullah, which "has been allowed to retain its well-armed militia and terrorist capabilities."

Among the groups cited within Syria were Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command, the Abu Nidal organization, Islamic Jihad and the Japanese Red Army.

Iran, Iraq, Cuba, Libya, Sudan and North Korea are the other countries cited as supporters of terrorism. All but Sudan, which was added last summer, had also been listed in last year's report.

In Israel and the territories, Palestinian attacks left 65 Israeli soldiers and civilians dead and 390 wounded, in 1993, while Israeli civilians killed 14 Palestinians, the report said.

The number of intra-Palestinian murders fell dramatically, from 200 in 1992 to 83 in 1993—a decline "largely the result of a tacit cease-fire" between Hamas and the PLO, the report found. It added that Hamas and Islamic Jihad have been responsible for most of the 17 terrorist killings of Israelis subsequent to the signing of the Declaration of Principles, while the PLO's Fatah wing has committed only "one, possibly two" murders.

The State Department noted the following about other neighboring countries:

- Jordan: Security and police closely monitor secular and Islamic extremists inside the country and detain those seeking to overthrow the government.
- Egypt: Islamic militants killed two foreigners and wounded 18 others in attacks designed to upset the tourism industry. Other random bombings killed 22 Egyptians and wounded over 100.
- Lebanon: Hizbullah continues to move freely throughout the Bekaa Valley, and the government "has not taken steps" to disarm the group.



President Ezer Weizman talks with Cuban President Fidel Castro yesterday after the inauguration of South African President Nelson Mandela. (Reuters)

NRA staffers shocked to find nature reserve is included in autonomous region

LIAT COLLINS

NATURE Reserve Authority workers were shocked to find out yesterday that the Jericho autonomous region designated under the Gaza/Jericho agreement includes part of the Wadi Makkooh reserve, west of the town.

"We only found out this morning. We asked to see the new map and discovered that part of the reserve is included. We had been told nothing," NRA director-general Dan Peri said yesterday.

Peri sent an urgent letter to Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild, government coordinator for the territories, noting the NRA had not been told that any of its reserves were touched by stage one of the autonomy plan, and asking that urgent steps be taken to ensure the organized transfer of the area.

"There is a great deal of work to do before handing over a place

like this. We need to mark the border and hand over details of the local wildlife and flora. For example, we need to tell them where raptors are nesting in the cliffs," he said.

So far, there is no one to whom the information can be given. Although the NRA is expected to hand over the autonomous section of the reserve within two to three days, no Palestinian body exists to take control of it.

"I am extremely worried about it. The subject of nature conservation just does not appear on the Palestinian agenda. Although the Declaration of Principles contains a clause ensuring that nature reserves will not be harmed, as far as I know there is no system of wardens or anyone who can institute and enforce nature protection regulations," Peri said.

Weiss asks Knesset panel to clarify limits on MKs' freedom of movement

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSET speaker Shevah Weiss yesterday asked the Knesset house committee to clarify the limits of MKs' parliamentary freedom of movement in light of the agreement with the PLO.

Weiss said he has recently received many complaints from MKs regarding two issues: attempts by MKs to visit administrative detainees, and MKs' stays in various places due to be handed over to the PLO, such as the synagogue in Jericho.

Although traditionally, parliamentary freedom of movement has applied to the territories—within the limitations posed by state security—a change might be needed in light of the Cairo agreement, he said.

APOLOGY

We regret that in two obituary notices published on Monday, May 9, there was an error in the name of Moshe Nativ, Director General of the Jewish Agency.

JERUSALEM DAY QUIZ — CORRECTION:

An error unfortunately crept into the question on John the Baptist in the Jerusalem Day Quiz. The question should have referred to the place of his birth (and not his place of burial).

Knesset gears up for marathon debate of Gaza/Jericho First agreement

DAN ZENBERG

BARRING last-minute changes this morning, the Knesset will spend today debating the Gaza/Jericho agreement. Knesset officials estimated the debate will last nine hours.

However, Likud whip David Mena has threatened to petition the High Court of Justice unless the government also presents the Knesset with the maps and appendices to the agreement.

Yesterday, copies of the official English-language version of the agreement were placed on the tables of the MKs in the plenum chamber. Knesset spokeswoman Sarah Itzhaki said many MKs including Likud Party Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, Benny Begin (Likud) and Shaul Yahalom (NRP), picked up their copies, even though the Knesset was closed because of the Hishdrot elections.

Speaker Shevah Weiss said he hoped the Hebrew translation of the agreement would be presented

to the MKs this morning. The debate is scheduled to begin at noon, to give the MKs time to study the document.

However, there have already been calls to postpone the debate to give them more time and the beginning of the session may be delayed by several hours.

On Monday, a number of Likud MKs complained to Weiss that the discussion was to be held in the framework of a factional, rather than an individual debate. This means that each faction, rather than each individual MK, is allocated time to speak.

It turned out, however, that Weiss had suggested holding an individual debate; it was Likud MK Meir Sheerit who had argued that the MKs had already expressed themselves sufficiently on the subject and urged a shorter debate.

Labor MKs in the house committee were only too happy to comply with Sheerit's proposal.

Savir: Hussein still 'sitting on the fence'

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir, speaking in New York to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations yesterday, criticized Jordan for not cooperating enough in the peace process. "His Royal Highness King Hussein is still on the fence," said Savir. "He'll tell you he's surviving, and we should stop courting him. But his participation is needed."

Hitachdut Olei Britannia (British Immigrants Association) and The Jerusalem Post present a

Gala Concert in aid of the Children's Medical Center of Israel and The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund.

Patron: H.E. the British Ambassador, Mr. Andrew Burns.

On the program: Top artists performing light classical music. Cheese and wine reception. Entire program will be in English.

Venue: Auditorium of the Felsenstein Medical Research Center (next to Beilinson Hospital, Petah Tikva)

Tuesday, May 17, 1994

Reception - 7:30 p.m.

Concert - 8:30 p.m.

Tickets - NIS 75

For tickets and more details, call Rochelle at (03) 696-5244, Sunday - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

JEWISH AGENCY Immigration and Absorption Dept. 3 Years After Operation Solomon

14,260 Ethiopian Immigrants in 31 Hours

The Immigration and Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency is celebrating the third anniversary of Operation Solomon, the theme of the celebrations being young immigrants and young people from the Diaspora.

Wednesday, May 11 - Gathering of Young Immigrants, to Mark Jerusalem Day. The gathering will take place in the Mt. Scopus amphitheater, at 5:00 p.m., in the presence of the Acting Chairman of the Zionist Executive, Mr. Yehiel Leket, the Head of the Immigration and Absorption Dept., Mr. Uri Gordon, the Director of the Immigration and Absorption Dept., Mr. Arnon Manber, and the Manager of the Adult Education Division, Dr. Meir Paritz.

Monday, May 23 - Certificate Award Ceremony for Graduates of the "Alel Tzameret" Program - Young Immigrants Leadership Project. The ceremony will take place in Binyanei Ha'uma (small hall) at 5:00 p.m. Graduates of Sessions Alef, Bet and Gimmel are invited to attend.

Tuesday, May 24 - Gathering of Young People of the Ethiopian Community, to Mark the 3rd Anniversary of Operation Solomon.

In the presence of the Minister of Immigrant Absorption, Mr. Yair Tsaban, and the Head of the Immigration and Absorption Dept., Mr. Uri Gordon, the Director of the Immigration and Absorption Dept., Mr. Arnon Manber, and the Head of the Students and Pupils Administration, Mr. David Soudi. Certificates will be awarded to outstanding pupils, graduates of the soldiers' trade training project, and outstanding immigrants and students. Graduates of the soldiers training program, their officers, and students are invited to the gathering, which will take place at Mt. Scopus at 4:00 p.m.

Opponents wary of Noriega party's election comeback

Winner promises to include opposition parties in government

DAVID LUHNOW
PANAMA CITY

THE victorious comeback of Manuel Noriega's old party in Panama has stirred concerns that the new government might revert to the corruption and thuggery that characterized the ousted dictator's regime.

Ernesto Perez Balladares, who won a slim victory in Sunday's election, spent much of his campaign allaying voters' fears and distancing the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) from the Noriega era.

The populist PRD was driven into the opposition by the 1989 US invasion of Panama that toppled Noriega. But under Perez Balladares, a former finance minister and Citibank executive in Panama City, the party's rehabilitation started.

It was the only party in Panama to hold democratic internal elections to fill the top spot in its slate of candidates for Sunday's contest.

Perez Balladares pledged to do more for Panama's poor without bloating the bureaucracy, and he said he would include opposition politicians in his government to expand his mandate beyond the 33 percent of the vote that he won Sunday.

His rivals remained calm as election results put Perez Balladares ahead. President Guillermo Endara praised the orderly polling process and said he was proud of Panama's democracy.

The United States praised the elections as "free and fair." One of the pretexts for the 1989 invasion was allegations of fraud in that year's violence-marred elections.

"We are very pleased that the elections were conducted in an apparently free and fair way," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in Mexico City.

Christopher said the Clinton administration will negotiate with Balladares to ensure a trouble-free transfer of the Panama Canal from US to Panamanian hands, set for December 31, 1999.

But a prominent US businessman in Panama City said the key

concern was not Perez Balladares himself, but lower-ranked members of his government who had had close ties with Noriega.

"There's a sense (PRD members) are going to want to be rewarded for having been out of power for a few years," the businessman said.

Although Perez Balladares promised a fiscally responsible government, his glowing references to the party's pre-Noriega golden years under General Omar Torrijos suggests his government will loosen spending to ease poverty and other problems in this nation of 2.5 million.

"Torrijismo will always be relevant in Panama because it is a doctrine for the sick, the poor, the jobless," Margaret Scranton, a Panama expert at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, said in an interview.

That vision of government—and Endara's failure to offer a more appealing alternative or root out corruption—helped return the PRD to power.

But some groups that suffered under previous heavy-handed PRD governments were uneasy after Perez Balladares' main rivals conceded defeat early Monday morning.

"It is a worrisome event, but we will have to see how they behave themselves," said Roberto Troncoso, the head of a human rights group, the Panamanian Human Rights Committee.

Troncoso, who like hundreds of Panamanians was jailed at various times under Noriega, said the PRD could cut short Panama's democratic development if its authoritarian roots took hold again.

Perez Balladares said late Sunday he promised "at least as clean elections during 1999 as (those that took place Sunday)."

"Panamanians have said the past is behind us and we are ready to build a nation together," he said.

(Reuters)



Malnourished children eat corn provided by the International Red Cross at a center in the city of Ganda, Angola. The Red Cross says that 35 people die every day from diseases and starvation in this city, which is besieged by UNITA rebels. (AP)

WEU – all dressed up but still nowhere to go?

ANALYSIS

NICHOLAS DOUGHTY

THE Western European Union, long dismissed as an obscure talking shop on defense, has finally put together all the elements needed to give it a real job in the turbulent post-Cold War world.

Within the last year, it has acquired forces of its own, access to the vast military resources of NATO and a formal mandate to work on behalf of the European Union under the terms of the Maastricht treaty.

At a meeting in Luxembourg on Monday, the WEU went one step further by offering political and military links to the countries of Eastern Europe that go beyond anything currently on offer to them from NATO's "Partnership for Peace".

The only problem is that no one is asking the WEU to do much. It sits on the sidelines as the United Nations turns to the US-led

NATO when it needs serious military muscle.

"The WEU is not an equal partner in the sense of having equal military capability," British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said at the meeting of the group's foreign and defense ministers in Luxembourg.

Bosnia is a case in point.

While NATO has assembled a massive show of air power to protect Muslim "safe areas" and UN troops, the WEU is limited to a minor role in helping enforce sanctions against Serbia with a small naval force in the Adriatic and police on the Danube.

Germany and France both said at the Luxembourg meeting it was time to make the WEU live up to

its potential.

German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe said the group could be used for rescuing Europeans trapped in trouble spots like Rwanda or Yemen, instead of leaving it up to individual countries.

"We should do everything we can to do such operations jointly," he told reporters.

Diplomats say there are several reasons why the nine-nation WEU, founded in 1954, has failed so far to fulfill its promise.

When the Cold War ended, the United States and Britain argued that it should not be given a major role as the European Union's future defense arm since this would undermine NATO.

In addition, the Brussels-based WEU had no forces or military structure of its own, leading many to the conclusion that it was simply not equipped to handle any crisis in Europe.

Some of those problems have now been solved.

US President Bill Clinton has taken a much more encouraging line on European integration than the previous administration, while the WEU now has forces it can use.

These include the "Eurocorps", set up by France and Germany, and other units which could be used either by NATO or the WEU. In addition, NATO leaders agreed at a summit in January that the European defense group could, in certain cases, make use of alliance assets such as headquarters units and bases.

(Reuters)

Moslem, Croats negotiating borders in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AP) — As Moslem and Croat leaders haggled over the borders of their federation yesterday, Bosnian Serbs prepared to consider how much territory they would be willing to cede.

In the Bihać area in northwest Bosnia, Moslem-led government

forces came under attack from Moslem troops loyal to a renegade local leader, a UN spokesman said. Most battle fronts between Serbs and Moslem-led government troops were reported quiet.

Peace talks among Moslems, Serbs and Croats have been suspended for nearly three months.

In Vienna, Moslem and Croat delegations bargained for a fourth day over internal borders

for a federation they are to form in central and southwestern Bosnia, under an agreement signed March 18 in Washington.

They have settled on district borders in central Bosnia, but apparently made no progress on borders around Mostar and St. Germain in southwestern Herzegovina.

"Mostar should be under European Union administration, as was agreed," said Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, asked to

comment in Zagreb. "But, it should also be a capital of the Bosnian Croat canton in Herzegovina."

That is something the Moslems apparently reject.

Even if the two sides agree, the maps will be largely pointless as long as Serbs hold 70 percent of Bosnian territory. Mediators say the federation needs 51 percent of Bosnia to be viable.

Mitterrand raises profile to mark 13th year in office

PARIS (Reuters) — President Francois Mitterrand last night marked the 13th anniversary of his election on prime-time television, hoping to recapture the political initiative in his last year in office.

Mitterrand, 77, a Socialist forced to "co-habit" since March 1993 with a conservative government with a huge parliamentary majority, has lost most of his power but not his influence as he heads toward the end of his second and final seven-year term.

He has emerged in the past week from a long public silence to reassert his favorite themes of European integration, nuclear deterrence and social justice.

"Mitterrand has two aims: to leave office on a high note, basking in public approval, and to influence the choice of his successor and set his agenda," a senior European diplomat said.

In a speech last Thursday, he set out his nuclear deterrence doctrine, playing on rifts among his conservative opponents by saying he did not believe France would ever resume the nuclear weapons tests he halted.

Conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur contradicted him yesterday by saying France would not sign a nuclear test ban treaty as long as it needed weapons tests to maintain the credibility of its deterrent.

Re-elected triumphantly in 1988, Mitterrand's star has waned since it reached its zenith during the Gulf War in 1991.

The ill-fated appointment of Edith Cresson as prime minister in June 1991 triggered a rapid decline in public favor that led to Socialist election debacles in 1992 and last year.

The president has clawed back some esteem by cooperating cautiously with Balladur and adopting an elder statesman role.

Two opinion polls published yesterday showed voters almost evenly divided on Mitterrand's presidency. One found 46 percent considered his legacy negative; overall and 43 percent positive. The other showed the electorate split 47-47 percent.

Voters gave him high marks for his defense of liberty, France's place in the world, European integration and social peace, but low ratings on unemployment, immigration, purchasing power and corruption.

Balladur's approval rating soared by 10 percentage points to 54 percent in May after a recent slump due to unemployment and student unrest over a now-abandoned youth wage cut.

The first major television interview for six months should also give Mitterrand a chance to respond to the deaths, scandals and intrigue which have tarnished his last months in power.

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Mandela thanks his white jailers for years of company

PRETORIA (Reuters) - President Nelson Mandela yesterday publicly thanked South African white jailers who befriended him during 27 years as the world's best-known political prisoner.

He spoke with emotion of extraordinary human bonds between them despite the harsh rigour of apartheid prisons.

It was a striking tribute from Mandela, 75, a onetime guerrilla and political fugitive who spent half his adult life entombed by the state as a "non-person."

In apartheid's grimmest years, even the public use of his name or that of his African National Congress could become a jailable offence.

Mandela used one of his first speeches as head of state to hail prison friendships surmounting South Africa's racial divide and easing the torment of jail-cell solitude.

He linked these warders with outgoing white president F.W. de Klerk, who released him four years ago, and thanked them for their roles in bringing black rule to South Africa.

He said, on his inauguration day as South Africa's first black president, that he had sent special invitations to three warders to attend the ceremonies as VIPs.

The friendship was shared equally. One of the trio, James Gregory, fluent in several African languages, told a reporter of his "empty life," since parting from Mandela after two decades.

Gregory said Mandela was a man he admired and was prepared to die for in later years when he had a bodyguard's role.

Mandela said his 27 years in prison had left him with many friendships among the warders. Those friendships had undermined the efforts of the white government to persecute blacks.

"I spent so many years in prison," Mandela told a lunch of dignitaries after his inauguration. "You will be surprised to know the friendships, the strong friendships, which were built between black prisoners and white warders."

"It was difficult for the policymakers to persecute us as they wanted because we became friends with our warders."

Three who had watched over him on Robben Island off Cape Town were invited to his inauguration.

"I invited them to come... because I wanted them to share in the joys that have emanated around this day. Because in a way they also contributed," Mandela said.

He reserved special praise for his predecessor de Klerk, for a remarkable ability to reform his ideas about apartheid and Congress (ANC) which now leads a government of national unity.

Referring to de Klerk as "my friend," Mandela recalled an incident when de Klerk had condemned South African rugby authorities for making contact with the "terrorist" ANC.

"I mention this as a measure of the change he has undergone, the personal courage - the vision, the honesty, the integrity with which he came to examine the situation in South Africa and used his enormous power as the head of the government to bring about reforms," Mandela said.

Watching South Africa's day of change, grey-haired former Prison Service lieutenant James Gregory recalled a treasured friendship with Mandela, the prisoner.

Of February 11, 1990 when Mandela was released, Gregory said: "He came up to me, looked at me and embraced me, saying: 'We'll meet again.' We both had tears in our eyes."

He produced a card Mandela left, saying, "The wonderful hours we spent together during the last two decades end today. But you will always be in my thoughts..."

When Gregory's son Brent died, Mandela sent a note: "Few things are as painful as an invisible wound."

Gregory arrived in 1967 on bleak, windswept Robben Island penal colony where he had to censor the prisoners' mail - their sole lifeline to the outside world.

"Things were happening that were not totally right," he told the Star newspaper here. "For example, warders were told to demoralise these people because they were seen to be terrorists."

"I put a stop to that immediately. From that time, a trust developed between us, from both sides."

Mandela's departure to freedom changed things for him. "I could not adapt to the dull routine. Life had become empty for me. I stuck it out for a year and then retired."



Members of the public examine a piece of art work by Damien Hurst at the Serpentine Gallery in London's Hyde Park. The piece shows a dead sheep suspended in glass tank of formaldehyde, and sold for £25,000. (AP)

Heavy fighting in Kigali; US aid flights reach Rwandan refugees in Tanzania

NAIROBI (Reuters) - Rwandan rebels bombarded a key army barracks east of Kigali's international airport yesterday, but during a brief lull the first UN plane for several days managed to land.

There were heavy exchanges of fire from early morning until midday, UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) director Abdul Kabia said by phone.

"Then there was a lull and we were able to land our plane," said Kabia. Soon after the plane taxied to a halt, heavy artillery exchanges broke out again.

Residents contacted in the city said there had been heavy casualties on both the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) and government sides during yesterday's fighting.

Advancing RPF forces attacked the government barracks at Kanyombe near the airport over the weekend and rebel artillery has twice hit an ammunition dump in

the base, witnesses said.

The United States, in its first military involvement in Africa since pulling out of the bloody 15-month operation in Somalia, announced yesterday it had started flying relief supplies to Rwandan refugees in Tanzania.

The US embassy in Nairobi said 15 "Starliner" C-141 military planes were flying relief supplies to nearly 250,000 Rwandan refugees in Tanzania and Burundi. It said further flights were possible.

In Kigali a Ghanaian soldier died late on Monday after he was hit by shrapnel from a mortar bomb which exploded in Amahoro stadium where thousands of people have taken shelter from fighting that has gripped the country for more than a month.

Some 60 civilians, mainly Tutsis, were killed on April 19 when government forces shelled the stadium, according to the UN but Kabia said it was not clear who

had fired three mortar bombs at Amahoro on Monday.

Three more shells exploded in Amahoro yesterday causing no casualties, UNAMIR spokesman Major Jean-Guy Plante said.

The Ghanaian, whose name was not immediately available, was the first UN soldier to die in Rwanda since 10 Belgians were disarmed and butchered by presidential guards on April 7.

That brutal incident, and renewed fighting, triggered a drawdown in UNAMIR forces from 2,500 to 270. Four Ghanaians have been wounded, one seriously, in the Kigali clashes.

A Canadian transport plane was forced to turn back on Monday when at least one shell slammed into the runway tarmac, but Kabia said the UN was getting the warning parties to agree to hold their fire on a plane-by-plane basis.

Rebel positions have a bird's-eye view of the airport but com-

manders on the ground said their target was first to besiege the Kanyombe barracks a few hundred metres east of the runway.

UNAMIR Major Plante said the mainly Tutsi RPF was also trying to cut the main road from the airport to the city and there was heavy fighting close to the UN headquarters as government troops struggled to defend the route.

Since the fighting erupted last month the RPF has agreed with UN proposals to hand the airport over to the world body for the delivery of relief aid and UN flights.

But government troops have refused to do this and have based artillery and helicopter gunships there.

Kabia said UN military chief Major-General Romeo Dallaire would again deliver ceasefire proposals to government army chief of staff Major-General Augustin Bizimungu and RPF military leader Major-General Paul Kagame.

Suspected war criminal held in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - A former German Nazi SS captain was under house arrest in southern Argentina yesterday pending extradition in connection with the worst war crime committed in Italy, an Argentine judge said.

Erich Priebke, 81, was arrested in the southern Andean resort of San Carlos de Bariloche, where he had lived for 46 years until he was traced by the US ABC-TV.

Bariloche judge Leonidas Moules told local radio he ordered the arrest on the request of Interpol and with the understanding that a formal extradition request from Italian authorities would follow.

"Among the documents we received was the promise that the extradition would be requested," Moules said. He said Priebke was being held at his home because of his age and infirmity.

His arrest followed the issuance of a warrant Monday by an Italian military prosecutor who wants to try him in connection with the reprisal killings in March 1944 of 335 Italians at the Ardeatine Caves near Rome.

The Italian Justice Ministry said it had begun formal proceedings for Priebke's extradition. An Interior Ministry statement said two senior Italian Interpol officers had been dispatched to Argentina.

Priebke's lawyer, Pedro Bianchi, said Monday the extradition case was flawed and would likely fail. Bianchi, who defended former Argentine military junta leaders, said the massacre was a war crime subject to a 10-year statute of limitations in Argentina and not a crime against humanity.

Priebke, who lived in Bariloche without concealing his identity, says he fled Italy in 1948 with the help of the Vatican, a claim rejected by a leading Roman Catholic historian. He acknowledged in an ABC interview last week that he had been involved in the Ardeatine killings and said he regretted his part and had been following orders.

Priebke says all the victims were Communist partisans. Jewish and Italian organisations maintain that the SS included Jews, common prisoners, women and teenagers to meet a quota of 10 Italians for every German killed by the bomb.

South Yemen troops said pushing northwards

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) - Soldiers set up checkpoints at major intersections in San'a, the capital, yesterday amid reports that southern forces have regrouped and are pushing northward.

If true, this would mark an apparent reversal of the tide in the civil war that erupted Thursday and erode hopes for salvaging the four-year-old union between conservative North Yemen and the socialist south.

But it remained impossible to determine who was winning - northern forces backing Yemen's President, Lt. Gen. Ali Abdullah Saleh, or southern forces backing the former vice president, Ali Salem al-Beidh.

The north claimed in official communications that it had seized strategic highlands overlooking the southern coastal stronghold of Aden. But northern officials privately said the south had regrouped and was pushing north, with northern troops bogged down well north of Aden.

The southerners said their forces had thwart-

ed a ninth attempt to penetrate Aden's defenses and claimed Sudan had sent forces to fight alongside the northern troops.

Islamic Sudan, which allegedly has close links with Yemeni fundamentalists in the north, denied the claim.

The impoverished nation of 14 million on the Arabian peninsula's southwestern tip has been moving toward war since August when al-Beidh stalked out of San'a and returned to his southern stronghold of Aden.

He complained of northern domination of the young democracy and of the slow pace of integration.

The May 1990 union had been a popular move. But the two sides' armies were never merged, even though an estimated 15,000 southern troops were deployed in the north and some 8,000 northern troops sent to the south.

When the war erupted last week, it was sparked by fighting between rival forces living in adjacent barracks in Amran, north of San'a.

At its birth, Yemen became the Arabian peninsula's first multi-party democracy as well as its most populous nation, alarming the region's autocratic monarchies.

After the conflict flared, Saleh dismissed southerners from the government, the ruling presidential council and parliament, including al-Beidh.

Yesterday, Saleh fired Prime Minister Heidar Abu Bakr al-Attas, a southerner who has been abroad for weeks, reportedly for medical treatment in the United States.

Foreigners continued to flee the war-ravaged nation, with at least 2,000 having left by yesterday.

Although the northern government has been trying to maintain an aura of normalcy in San'a, where it ordered all shops and businesses to remain open, soldiers yesterday set up checkpoints throughout the ancient city. (Full background, Page 8)

US serial killer gets lethal injection

JOLIET, Ill. (Reuters) - John Wayne Gacy, convicted of more than 30 murders, was executed yesterday by a lethal injection machine that took 18 minutes to end his life for killing 33 young men and boys.

"He got a much easier death than any of his victims," said William Kunkle who prosecuted Gacy and won the death sentence against him in 1980.

He said Gacy did not suffer even though the process took nearly twice as long as it should have.

Gacy "took a deep breath and kind of dozed off," said Howard Peters, director of the Illinois Department of Corrections. He said Gacy appeared to be unconscious and unaware that one of the poisons designed to end his life had failed to reach his mark.

Peters said the incident "seems to be... a problem with the chemicals jelling or blood clotting in the needle."

He said the curtains were closed blocking the view of witnesses in an adjoining room while a tube was replaced and Gacy was pronounced dead at 12:58 a.m. CDT (0558 GMT).

One witness said Gacy "swallowed hard" and stared at the ceiling when the poison first began flowing into his body. Another witness said she was told by a prison spokesman that Gacy's last words to him were "kiss my ass or words to that effect."

Peters said Gacy's final words when he was wheeled into the death chamber strapped to a gurney were that "taking his life

would not compensate for the loss of the others... This was the state murdering him and this wouldn't serve justice."

State officials said Gacy's body was turned over to the local county coroner and its disposition or burial would not be revealed at Gacy's request. He was known to have purchased a plot in a suburban Chicago cemetery near the graves of his parents.

The device employs an intravenous line that delivers first a knock-out sedative followed by two poisons, one to stop breathing and a second to stop the heartbeat.

Twenty-three survivors of some of Gacy's victims came to the prison but were kept in a separate room and not allowed to view the execution.

More than 1,000 people spilled onto a floodlit meadow outside Stateville (correct) prison as the hour for Gacy's execution passed, many shouting "Burn in Hell," "Kill the clown" and "We want the body."

Gacy had worked as a freelance clown at one time, entertaining at parties.

Some tried to blow out candles held by outnumbered death penalty opponents who came to protest.

Gacy's death ended a bizarre day in which hundreds of demonstrators marched through downtown Chicago streets cheering his impending death; an art gallery held a show of his prison paintings, one of which had a \$50,000 price tag.

Officials at Stateville prison 113 km southwest of Chicago described Gacy as "chatty," talking up a storm "before he was served his last meal - fried chicken, French fries, cola and strawberries - in advance of the execution."

For his final hours the Roman Catholic-bred son of a Polish immigrant had also requested Mass to be said in the execution room holding cell by a prison chaplain whom he had served as altar assistant during his years behind bars.

Lebanon wants charges dropped against Palestinians

SIDON (AP) - The prosecutor in the trial of two Palestinians accused of the 1984 assassination of a Libyan dissident in Berlin dropped the charge yesterday and asked the court for their release.

The request by Prosecutor Hatem Madhi could clear the way for the extradition of one of the accused, Yasser Chreidi, to stand trial in Germany for the murder of Libyan Mustafa Ashkeh and the 1986 Berlin discotheque bombing.

Madhi told the Criminal Court that the 1984 killing of Ashkeh in West Berlin had political motives, and thus was covered by a 1991 general amnesty for political crimes committed during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

"Therefore, the prosecution asks for the release of the accused," Madhi told the three-man tribunal convened in the southern provincial capital of Sidon.

Presiding Judge Mohammed Moallem scheduled a June 14 session to rule in the matter.

"Long live justice," shouted the wife, mother and uncle of Chreidi simultaneously. The three were attending the court.

"I had nothing to do with what happened in Germany," a smiling Chreidi told the judge.

"I insist on exoneration," replied Ayoub to a question by Moallem.

Chreidi, 34, and Ghassan Ayoub, 38, have been held in Lebanon since they returned from Communist East Germany in 1989 following the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Both have denied killing Ashkeh by a muffled pistol on a West Berlin street March 29, 1984.

The duo are suspected followers of Palestinian terrorist mastermind Abu Nidal, although both denied that in court. Abu Nidal

tops the wanted list in the West and in several Arab countries for attacks that killed scores of people.

Chreidi, who worked as a driver at the Libyan diplomatic mission in Communist East Berlin, was also implicated in the April 5, 1986, bombing of the La Belle discotheque in West Berlin, which was frequented by American servicemen. Two off-duty US officers and a Turkish woman were killed and about 230 people wounded.

Chreidi also denied involvement in the bombing, which prompted then-President Ronald Reagan to order US air raids against Libya, host and main backer of Abu Nidal.

Germany has demanded Chreidi's extradition in both cases. In Lebanon he stood trial for the Ashkeh killing. Lebanon and Germany have no extradition treaty and it's up to the Lebanese government to decide whether to extradite.

If the court decides on a release, the government will be in a position to head Germany's extradition request from a legal standpoint. If the suspects are sentenced, the verdict should be carried out in Lebanon before extradition is considered.

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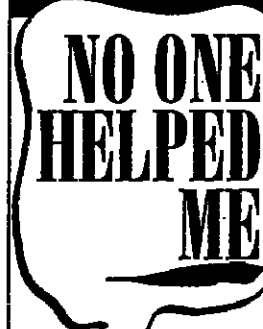
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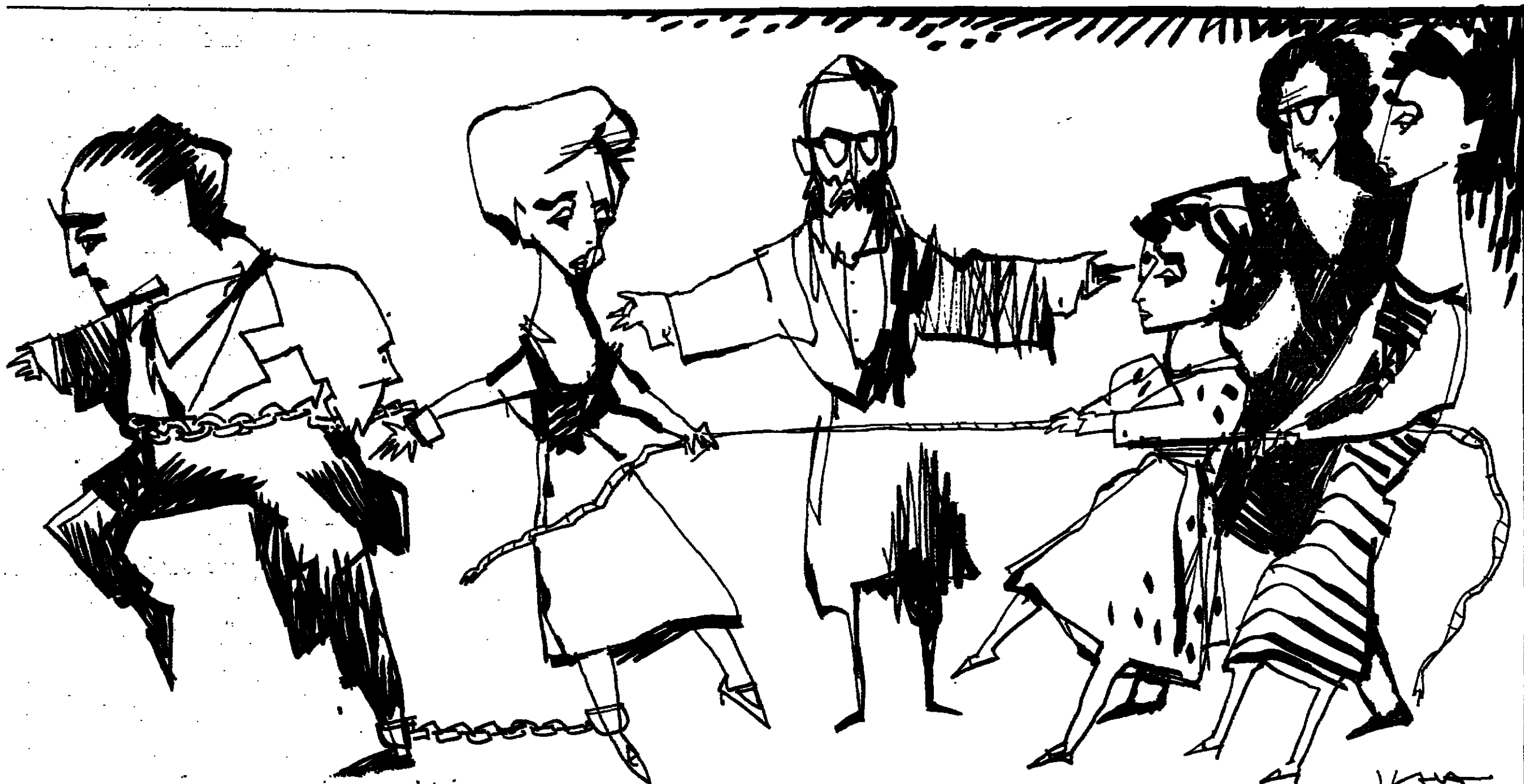
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Looking for a global solution to a global problem

NORMA Joseph heads one of the largest coalitions ever built around a single Jewish issue.

Joseph is the president of ICAR, the International Coalition for Aguna Rights, and its list of member organizations reads like a roster of the world's most powerful Jewish women's groups. It was established last year to help women who have been denied a get or bill of divorce because their husbands are either recalcitrant or missing. Such women cannot remarry under Jewish law.

The problem affects an estimated 10,000 to 16,000 women in Israel and tens of thousands more around the world. ICAR's message is clear: Much needs to be done to free women who cannot obtain a divorce.

Last week, ICAR held its first international conference in Jerusalem. Those who attended ranged from ardent feminists to zealous defenders of Orthodoxy, and some — like Joseph — who could be described as both.

JOSEPH, 51, is a lecturer in the department of religion at Concordia University in Montreal. Her specialty is women and religions; she became involved in the issue of agunot (literally "anchored women") as an outgrowth of her commitment to Judaism.

Joseph says she is just an ordinary, happily married-for-29-years mother of four, and a teacher. Her husband, Howard, is the rabbi of the oldest Jewish congregation in Canada, Shearith Israel in Montreal.

Born in Brooklyn, Joseph is the daughter of a salesman and a medical secretary. Her home was deeply religious and she always aspired to study.

After she married and pursued her studies in anthropology, she had a moment of "feminist awakening" when a university committee refused her a six-month extension to complete her first doctoral dissertation. The committee did not consider giving birth sufficient reason for an extension.

Joseph is now completing her second dissertation at Concordia on the work of the late Rabbi Moshe Feinstein — "the great rabbinical arbiter," she calls him — who died in 1986. Joseph notes that he filled seven volumes of responsa; she is focusing on just some of them.

She had trouble accepting the fact that a Jewish

Norma Joseph, president of the International Coalition for Aguna Rights, tells Sasha Sadan that the goals of the group are far from being achieved

woman who wants a divorce cannot get one if her husband doesn't want to or cannot give her one.

Her research on the issue was not sparked by personal acquaintance with agunot, she says. But when she began to lecture on it to small groups, "the agunot found me."

IN 1986, Joseph joined Evelyn Brook — now chairwoman of the Canadian Coalition of Women, "which was the model for ICAR," Joseph says — to lobby for an amendment to the Canadian Federal Divorce Law that would help agunot. They sent hundreds of letters and lobbied politicians in every party.

In 1990, they emerged victorious, with an amendment that reads: "No person shall maintain barriers to the religious remarriage of their spouse that are within their control."

"It didn't solve every case, but it helped a lot," Joseph says.

The seriousness of the plight of agunot has led to a coalition, under the ICAR umbrella, of organizations which are not usually linked together, such as Emunah, the Orthodox women's movement, and the radical Woman to Woman in Haifa.

The largest Zionist organization in the world, Hadassah, is a member of ICAR, and so is WIZO, the Women's International Zionist Organization; the Na'amat women's organization; B'not Brit; the Association of University Women; Amut; the Israel Women's Network, and, in

the UK, the Jewish Women's Organization. ICAR also includes small organizations focused entirely on this issue such as the Association of Agunot and Women Denied Divorce in Israel, and, in the US and Canada, Agunah Inc. and GET.

AT LAST week's meeting, the ICAR debate reflected the organizations' differing voices and the need to find consensus. Joseph says she felt like a kabbalist "pulling out the sparks," trying to find the common ground that would unite everyone, but also allow the group to take forceful action.

Here in the past year, ICAR has had a legal committee and a halachic committee working to formulate a program of action. Organization representatives have also been speaking to audiences around the country.

Rabbis working with the halachic committee have agreed on a number of means for pressuring husbands who refuse to grant a divorce. These include denying him the right to get a passport or a driving license, to be employed by a public body, or to open a bank account. Bills specifying these sanctions failed to pass in the 12th Knesset, but one submitted to the current Knesset has received an OK from the Religious Affairs Ministry and was sent to the Justice Ministry for review last December. ICAR has called on Justice Minister David Liba'i to move the bill back to the legislature for a vote.

ICAR also wants chief rabbis Yisrael Meir Lau and Eliahu Bakshi-Doron to publicly support some of the halachic suggestions ICAR has made, such as having rabbis use annulments in more kinds of cases than is done now.

Lau came to the ICAR meeting, but his response was disappointing. He noted that neither of the chief rabbis was universally recognized as a Tora sage, and their backing for a certain stand in the religious courts would not necessarily guarantee that such a standard would be followed by all. Lau compared the situation to the Kanowitz Law, which allows prosecution for noise pollution but is basically ignored.

Joseph disagrees, saying there is more that could be done by the rabbinical establishment. "If the rabbis feel that the pressure is global," she says, "they will find a global solution for it."

Women who yearn to be free

WHEN Keren Simantov was 23, she realized her marriage wasn't working. She moved with her year-old daughter into a room in her parents' home. Now she is 37 and still waiting for a divorce.

"There isn't a day I don't cry. I live without hope," says Simantov. But she picked herself up last week and left Tel Aviv, where she works as a nursery-school aide, to attend the conference in Jerusalem of the International Coalition for Aguna Rights, which brought together lawyers, community leaders and experts on Jewish law.

Simantov and up to 16,000 women like her in Israel, and tens of thousands elsewhere in the world, were the focus of the ICAR meeting.

Simantov says her husband simply refuses to divorce her, even though they haven't lived together for 13 years and throughout that time "their case has been dragging through the rabbinical courts."

Simantov says she agreed to lower the amount of child support her husband had to pay, and, at the suggestion of Eli Ben-Dahan, administrative director of the rabbinical courts, offered her husband NIS 5,000 to grant a divorce. He refused. "I think he wants to take revenge," says Simantov. "He wants to see my life ruined."

She says her chance to have more children is gone. "I am like one of those prisoners of war," she adds, folding her arms across her chest to indicate that she can't do anything.

Legally, she is still married. "If I have another child," she says, "he will be a *mamzer*," the issue of a married Jewish woman and a man other than her husband, or of any other union forbidden by Jewish law. A *mamzer* may marry only another *mamzer* or a convert to Judaism. The child from the union of a married Jewish male and a single Jewish woman is not so affected.

Simantov opens her purse and removes some documents. One is a letter from her social worker, dated March 1993, and addressed to the rabbinical court. It says she and her daughter are suffering because they are in emotional limbo and the healing process can't continue.

Another is from Ben-Dahan, addressed to

Rabbinical Court Judge Rabbi Ezra Bar-Shalom, dated this month. It says: "To my sorrow the husband refuses to grant a divorce for no reason."

A rabbinical court can, in extreme cases, order that a man be jailed for refusing to grant a divorce. One court did this in the case of Petah Tikva resident Ora Avraham, who, at 24, left her husband and took their two daughters with her because he was violent and did not support them. He chose jail and is still there. His wife is 64 and still waiting to be freed.

"This case is frequently cited [to illustrate] the futility of [trying to compel] divorce," one of the tools the rabbis have, notes ICAR spokeswoman Lesley Sachs.

In other words, rabbis can order a man to divorce — which has been done fewer than 100 times in the state's history — but he can still refuse.

At the ICAR conference, a few cases of agunot were cited by Sachs:

• Sarah Shuker, at age 14, married a relative who turned out to be violent. She asked for a divorce at 18. At 24, she left her husband with her three daughters, leaving behind all her possessions. The rabbinical court termed her "a rebellious wife." This year, 17 years later, she reached a divorce settlement giving control of their common property to her husband, but he reneged.

• Mazal Sa'il married Daniel, not knowing that he had been in a mental hospital and that he was sterile. He was jailed for an extremist act, and after his release left Israel. He was never heard from again. Mazal, after 17 years, is applying to the rabbinical court to have her marriage annulled after a previous request was turned down.

• Sigal Szamosi, a former El Al air hostess and successful jewelry shop owner in Los Angeles, married Tom, who ran the business into the ground. In an attempt to start anew, they moved to Israel with their two daughters. Still unhappy, Tom returned to the US and contact between Szamosi and his family diminished. He has said he will not grant a get unless she meets his demands, such as financial "compensation." S.S.

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Yemen: A fractious land with a history of war

YEMEN'S southern and northern forces are battling for control of this fractious Arabian land, only four years after it was merged into a single state for the first time in almost 500 years, and the country of 13 million people once more seems bent on disintegration.

But it is not Yemen's first war. The country, both partitioned and united, has been plagued by wars and coups for the last 30 years. Here is a summary of the main conflicts, and profiles of the two leaders currently locked in battle:

• 1962 – Civil war erupts in what becomes North Yemen when Imam Ahmed, the feudal priest-king, is ousted by Egyptian-led republican rebels eight days after succeeding his father. Egypt sends 70,000 troops to support the republicans, but tribal leaders rally around the Saudi-backed Ahmed.

An estimated 200,000 Yemenis and Egyptians are killed or wounded before the republicans, aided also by the Soviets, triumph in 1969.

• 1964 – Egyptian-backed rebels in the British-ruled colony of Aden, which later becomes South Yemen, launch a guerrilla campaign against the colonial power. Hundreds are killed. Britain withdraws on November 29, 1967.

• 1967 – Saudi Arabia sends Yemeni exiles, aided by dissident tribesmen, to topple the leftist government in Aden. Border fighting erupts and Saudi forces enter the conflict in November 1969. The fighting continues sporadically until March 1976.

• 1970 – Aden-backed Marxist rebels launch a campaign in neighboring Oman to overthrow the ruler, Sultan Said bin Taimur. They are defeated in a six-year war by British troops, aided by Omani and Iranian forces.

• 1972 – Fighting flares between Saudi-backed North Yemen and Marxist South Yemen from September 26 to November 28.

• 1979 – War between North and South erupts February 15, following the assassination of North Yemeni president Ahmed Ghashani. Salem Rubay Ali, the southern president, is blamed and subsequently overthrown. A cease-fire takes effect March 3.

• 1986 – Civil war erupts in South Yemen January 13 between president Ali Nasser Mohammed and Marxist rivals, who eventually topple his regime. Officials put the death toll in 12 days of heavy fighting at nearly 4,250. But diplomatic sources say it was closer to 10,000.

News agencies

PRESIDENT Ali Abdullah Saleh, the northern leader, has survived wars, coups and assassination attempts for 16 years.

He ruled North Yemen – where two presidents were assassinated and three toppled – for 12 years, longer than any one else since the 1962 republican revolution.

After ruthlessly imposing some stability on his traditionally unruly land, he became president of the Republic of Yemen when the conservative, tribal north united with socialist South Yemen in May 1990, a merger he largely engineered.

A member of the powerful Hashed tribe, Saleh was born in 1942 and attended Koranic schools, receiving a limited Islamic education. He entered military college in 1960.

As a major, he helped plot the monarchy's downfall, triggering the seven-year civil war between the Egyptian-backed republicans and Saudi-backed royalists. After the republican triumph in 1969, Saleh, who had been wounded several times, commanded an armored division.

He rose to prominence in 1977, when he was involved in the October assassi-

nation of strongman Col. Ibrahim al-Hamdi. He was close to Hamdi's successor, Col. Ahmed al-Ghashani.

Ghashani was assassinated in June 1978, and Saleh was elected president by parliament a month later. He crushed a military coup August 10, 1978, and another two months later, the latter one backed by Libya.

In his early years in power, Saleh wore a nervous, hunted look and was considered to be politically inept. But he developed confidence and cunning, shrewdly manipulating the truculent and powerful northern tribes. As leader of the General People's Congress Party, he built up a powerful personality cult.

In 1979, fighting erupted with South Yemen and went badly for Saleh. He was saved by the Saudis and his other ally, Iraq, who arranged a cease-fire. But the Saudis became extremely demanding and he looked for other ways to consolidate his regime, moving closer to Moscow. There were times, however, when he seemed to lean toward Washington.

In 1980, he began negotiating with the south. The union took a decade to achieve. When it came, the fledgling

republic was soon in trouble. It sided with Iraq in the 1990 Gulf crisis, incensing the Saudis, who expelled one million Yemenis and cut off \$1 billion in annual aid.

Amid allegations Saleh was amassing power for himself, relations with the south deteriorated and war broke out May 5.

VICE PRESIDENT Ali Salem Al-Beidh was one of the diehard South Yemen Marxists who opposed merging with conservative North Yemen.

But four years after escaping political assassination because of that stance, he led the south into the merger in 1990. The decline of Aden's mentor state, the Soviet Union, and worsening economic conditions were driving forces that reversed his opposition to the union.

In 1986, however, al-Beidh and Yemen Socialist Party leaders vigorously opposed president Ali Nasser Mohammed's leadership, including his leaning toward a Saudi-backed union with the north.

In January of that year, six top party officials were invited to meeting Mohammed. It was a trap. Mohammed's bodyguards opened fire on the men when they showed up.

Three were killed instantly. Al-Beidh and two others escaped with wounds, though one died later.

In the 12 days of bloody fighting that ensued, Mohammed was overthrown and fled north. A new government was formed and Prime Minister Heider al-Attas, who was in India when the war erupted, became president. But al-Beidh was elected the party's general secretary, the real power behind the scenes.

He was born in 1939 in what was then Britain's Aden protectorate. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Cairo; when he returned home, he joined the Arab nationalist movement seeking to expel the British. When the British left in 1967, al-Beidh, not yet 30, was named defense minister in the post-independence government. He held various portfolios, strengthening his position in the Marxist Yemen Socialist Party, which became the sole political power.

Al-Beidh became vice president of the unified Republic of Yemen. But political rifts soon emerged, as Saleh seemed intent on squeezing out the southerners. Al-Beidh stalked out of Sana'a, the infant republic's capital, in August, deepening the feud that led to war.

Syria's Christians looking to leave

DOUG STRUCK

MALULA, Syria

THE yellowish cliffs here are pocked with rectangular holes, the cave-homes of ancient Christians. In a small shop at a cliff base, Sleman Waken sends his son Fadi scurrying on an errand, speaking in a tongue that sounds vaguely like Hebrew.

"It is Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke," says the shop owner, as he makes a lunch of bread and hard yogurt. "We speak it because we are proud of it. It was the language of our ancestors."

Here in Syria, the country with ancient claims to leadership of the greater Arab world, Christians live and thrive.

Syria is a country of chilling political repression. But while the Christian minorities in other Middle East countries suffer from attacks by Moslem fundamentalists, government repression and social isolation, Syria's ancient Christian community practices its rites openly and securely.

"There is no difference between Christian and Moslem here," says Habib Francis, 33, cutting wood in Malula, a town of 5,000 north of Damascus. "We join in celebration of good times, and we share in the bad times."

But the bad Syrian economy, and the fear that religious protection will end with the current regime, have caused Syrians to join the swell of Christians leaving the country.

An estimated 850,000 Christians live in Syria, about 9 percent of the population. Christians were 14 percent of the population when Syria won its independence in 1943.

"Sure, I'd go to America or Europe. Every young person wants to go," says Garo Barushian, a young Armenian Christian lounging in an Armenian social club.

"If a young man says he wants to leave, I cannot say no," says a dejected Rev. Farez Freijate, a Greek Catholic priest. He had a parish in Damascus and then moved to oversee a dark, moody monastery in Malula.

"I have spoken out for 10 years

against emigration," he says. "Syria without Christians would be a different Syria. Nobody wants that."

But "because of the economy, it is very difficult now for a young man to start a family here," he concedes. "Everything is expensive. For the young Christian – or young Moslem – the big grace that God can give him is a visa to the US or Canada or Europe."

Syrian President Hafez Assad and many of his inner circle are Alawites, a small Moslem sect that has been viewed with suspicion and occasionally open rebellion by fundamentalists of the majority Sunni Moslems. As a result, Assad has offered generous protection to the minority Christians.

"The government feels an obligation to protect minorities," said Armenian Orthodox Patriarch Souren Kataryan. "With the government, we have very warm relations."

One of the major sects of Christians is the Armenians. They came to Syria in waves after the Turkish genocide of World War I, and stayed because they were given a warm welcome.

"We feel loyal to Syria. We teach the students to love the country more than anything else," said Augustinos Vartabeid Kusana, principal of the St. Gregory School of 1,250 Armenian pupils in Aleppo.

Syria's ruling Ba'ath party was founded in the 1940s by a Christian, Michel Aflaq, who advocated allegiance to Arab nationalism over religion. The government is stridently secular.

The question, though, is what happens after the Assad regime ends. Although Christians have not been a target of the Moslem fundamentalist movement here, they could be.

"For now, the president is taking a steel hand against the fanaticism," said one Christian church official. "The Alawites fear, more than us, the dark future."

(Baltimore Sun)



Northern Yemeni troops, on top of an armored vehicle in Lawdar, wave to a northern air force helicopter.

The invisible civil conflict

JEROME SOCOLOVSKY

LAWDAR, Yemen

FLYING over the mauve-streaked mountains and rocky gorges of central Yemen, where the occasional goat-herd nudged his flock along wadis, there were no signs of the civil war between north and south that is tearing this country apart.

But the half-dozen reporters riding a creaky Russian-built military helicopter from Sana'a, the northern capital, to the southern front knew there was a war going on as the pilot skimmed breath-stoppingly low through jagged passes and jinxed around razor-backed ridges to escape detection by southern MiGs.

They were the only foreign journalists who made it into Sana'a before links were cut with the outside world when the conflict erupted last Thursday.

As the newsmen, Arabs and Westerners, clambered out of the yellow helicopter onto the arid earth at the northern army base at Lawdar, 175 km north of Aden, the imperiled southern capital, a guard carrying a Kalashnikov assault rifle inquired: "Amriki?" American?

One journalist cautiously nodded yes. "Welcome!" the guard said in English, smiling.

The base was manned by the northern Amalqa, or Giants, Brigade. Most of its soldiers were advancing south down the coastal road as part of a three-pronged

assault closing in on Aden.

The base lies at the foot of a desert mountain range, where the southern coastal plain begins. An occasional whirlwind sent columns of desert sand spiraling into the sky.

Scores of weary soldiers in faded fatigues shaded themselves from the blazing sun under papaya and eucalyptus trees outside dilapidated cement barracks painted in light blue.

But seeing the newsmen's cam-

eras, they jumped up to pose for photographs, making V-for-victory signs.

There was no sign of war damage, even though Lt. Abdul Karim Assaholi, 41, said there had been air strikes by southern warplanes.

"It was hell," he said.

The base commander, Col. Neji Ali Obeid, claimed that over the weekend his men routed three southern brigades at Mahfad, about 100 kms to the east, after three days of fighting.

"The Amalqa Brigade is fighting for Yemen's unity," Obeid told reporters in his dank, unadorned office. He refused to say how many troops were in the brigade.

The reporters were taken to another bare room where several southern prisoners sat silently on flattened cardboard boxes, mosquitoes swirling around faces covered with shrapnel wounds.

The sullen captives would only say they were being treated well.

The military had planned to fly the reporters further south to witness the carnage of war at Mahfad, but the flight was aborted just before takeoff because of an air-raid alert.

The reporters and their escorts scrambled out of the helicopter and into the silt trenches snaking around the perimeter of the landing area. But the southern warplanes never came.

(AP)

Preparing for a regional tourism boom

HATHAM HADDADIN

BET MERI, Lebanon

EXPERTS at a recent tourism conference in Lebanon forecast a Middle East tourism boom when peace is signed and urged Arab countries to join up with Israel to reap the dividend.

They told the country's first international tourism conference in 20 years that Middle East tourism would grow 4 percent a year until the year 2000 – twice the world average – reaching 11 million annually compared with seven million last year.

"The interest around the world in this area is tremendous," said Geoffrey Gray-Forton, chairman of the UK-based Meetings World Association.

"For two decades people who would have otherwise come here have not... There's a whole big market out there; two generations that have chosen to go to the Caribbean or southeast Asia, and have flown over this area."

"Peace, cooperation and the market, these are the three reasons for hope for tourism in the Middle East," Francesco Frangilli, deputy head of the Madrid-based World Tourism Organization, told the conference.

The experts said Lebanon, Syria and Jordan could win a bigger slice of the cake only by uniting efforts and resources to provide quality services to attract tourists.

Some even suggested that tourism officials of the three countries meet their Israeli counterparts to work towards selling the whole region as a tourism package.

"The Israelis are more commercially aggressive. I suppose I would put them in the top three in the world... along with Hong Kong and South Africa," Gray-Forton said.

"I would have a meeting with them... Think about it. Do you really think Singapore is in love with Macao, or Singapore [with] Malaysia? They hate each other but they present this image... that they are all friends and work together."

Syria, Lebanon and Jordan signed a tourism cooperation pact in 1993 that they hope will ensure them a share of the region's tourist pie now dominated by Israel.

A Jordanian official confirmed the pact was intended to counter Israel's weight on the tourism market.

The two-day conference attended by delegates from 16 countries was held to find ways to implement the 1993 pact, which calls for common development, promotion and marketing of tourism.

(Reuters)

France raps Algerian 'barbaric' killing

ALGIERS – Algerian security forces killed 15 Islamic militants last week in sweeps of five regions in this north African country, the Algerian APS news agency reported, quoting security sources.

Eight of the 15 Islamists were killed in six separate operations in various parts of the capital Algiers, APS said.

France, meanwhile, is outraged at what it called the "barbaric" killing of two French religious workers in Algiers and said it was deeply concerned by civil strife.

"Today Algeria is one of the most serious concerns of the prime minister [Edouard Balladur]," government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy told French radio.

The two French nationals were shot and killed by suspected Moslem militants in the Casbah district of Algiers. The Foreign Ministry

identified them as Father Henri Barthelmy Verges and Sister Paule Saint Raymond, and reiterated its advice that French nationals whose presence in Algeria was not vital should leave the country.

"Profoundly moved by this act of barbarity, [French authorities] condemn this odious crime which targets the foreign community," the Foreign Ministry said.

The two deaths brought to 34 the number of foreigners killed in Algeria since September 1993, including eight other French nationals.

At least 3,500 people have been killed in violence, blamed by the army-backed government on Moslem fundamentalists, since January 1992, when the authorities canceled an election to military rule.

(News Service)

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1994

9

Teva reports rise in profits, but shares fall

RACHEL NEIMAN

TEVA shares fell 1.25 percent on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday, despite reporting a 26% rise in first quarter net profits to \$17 million from \$13.5m. in the same period last year.

The pharmaceutical manufacturer's stock dropped 4% earlier in the day before recovering somewhat.

On the NASDAQ market in New York, however, Teva's shares were up 1% to 24% in afternoon trading.

The increase in net profits was attributed to vertical production and in-house manufacture of raw materials.

Sales increased to \$136.7m. in the first quarter from \$118.4m. The gross profit margin edged higher to 45.1% from 44.1%.

Teva now exports some 60% of all products. Although there were no new FDA approvals for Teva drugs, the company registered a 35% rise in exports to the US generic drug market over the reported period.

As part of a strategy to diversify research and development costs, the company will invest some \$2m. in Weizman Institute-based Fortman Pharmaceuticals.

Teva acquired a 30% share in the company during the first quarter and will also benefit from revenues on development rights.

The company also purchased a 34% share in Prographarm Laboratories, a French firm specializing in slow-release pharmaceutical technologies, whose first quarter revenues were reflected in the report.

Trade deficit jumps 50.6% to \$789m.

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE trade deficit jumped 50.6 percent to \$789 million last month compared to March, as imports rose 7.6% and exports fell 10%, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Imports rose to \$1.935 billion from \$1.798b. in March, while exports fell to \$1.146b. from \$1.274b.

The bureau attributed last month's large trade gap to the purchase of a passenger airplane.

However, imports rose 8.4% in the first third of the year compared

to the previous third, while exports tumbled down 0.5%. During that period, the trade deficit widened by 31.3%.

Industrial exports, excluding diamonds, rose a seasonally adjusted 5% in the first third of the year compared to the previous third, which registered a 2% drop.

Most of the increase is attributed to the rise in machinery, electronics and freight transport exports, which increased 10%.

During that period, rubber and plastics exports rose 6%, while

textiles and clothing exports increased a moderate 2%.

By contrast, chemicals, optics, precision machines and jewelry exports were flat, while mining, quarrying and food exports registered drops of between 7% and 9%.

Diamond exports rose 13% to an average \$290m. a month in the first third. Agricultural exports also increased 6% to \$426m.

Production input imports rose

5% to an average \$815m. a month.

About a third of the increase was attributable to part and component imports for the electronics and freight transport industries.

There were marked rises of 12% to 13% in raw materials imports for the food industry and of wood and wood products. Imports of raw materials for paper production, of chemical products, cloth, thread, metal and iron increased a more moderate 2% to 4%.

By contrast, precious metal imports dropped 4%, while rubber

and plastic imports decreased 1%.

Investment goods imports, such as machinery, equipment and vehicles, jumped 22% to an average \$354m. a month.

Machinery and equipment imports rose 19%, while vehicle imports shot up 38%.

Consumer imports, which totaled \$242m. per month, rose 11% compared to the previous third. Non-durable household goods imports expanded 12%, car imports 14% and durable goods imports 5%.

Proportion of assets invested in savings programs decline

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE proportion of the public's assets invested in savings programs has steadily decreased from 10 percent in 1989 to 9.6% last year, deputy supervisor of provident funds and savings Linda Ben Shushan reported yesterday.

The decrease occurred as more attractive stock market yields captured a larger proportion of those assets.

Despite the drop, savings program assets registered a 2.4% increase last year to NIS 42.9 billion, compared to an average 2.5% loss since 1989.

Ben Shushan attributed the change to the higher interest banks paid last year on the savings program and to the changes the Treasury introduced into those programs, which improved conditions to savers.

During the first months of the year, when stock market prices fell dramatically, the banks began marketing aggressively the savings programs and raising the interest they pay customers.

Ben Shushan attributed the change to the fact that falling bond yields have made the savings programs more attractive.

Savings programs last year registered a net increase of NIS 613.2 million in investments, compared to a drop of NIS 1.8b. in 1992, as deposits rose faster than redemptions.

Ben Shushan noted that traditionally savings programs which include periodic deposits are less influenced by changes in the capital market.

By contrast, the one-time de-

posit programs are very sensitive to changes in the markets, inflation and public tastes.

Based on the data, Ben Shushan said the public always expects the Consumer Price Index to rise more than the dollar.

Foreign currency linked savings programs have registered decreases, particularly when expectations are that the dollar will not rise more than the CPI.

The main benefit of savings programs over other investment instruments is that, although they have usually lower yields, the principle as well as the yield are guaranteed.

In addition, the interest, linkage and other benefits are not taxed. The savings programs can extend for as little as two years up to 18 years.

Savers who withdraw early only receive up to 90% of interest and linkage payments.

The minimal extension period on these programs is one year, with exit periods every six months.

This is meant to encourage savers to keep their money in the programs without having to fear that it will be tied up should they need it.

Ben Shushan said savers should shop around when the extension period for a savings program comes up to make sure it offers a better yield than a new program, since the yield is liable to change from the initial savings period.

The Treasury will be publishing shortly its first annual survey on savings programs, which will be available to the public on request.

ECI's net profits jump 31%

RACHEL NEIMAN

ECI Telecom yesterday announced a 31 percent increase in first quarter net profits to \$17.9 million from \$13.6m. in the corresponding quarter last year.

The 1993 figure, however, was affected by a one-time accounting gain of \$1.38m.

ECI's shares were down 1/4 to 19 in afternoon trading on New York's NASDAQ market.

Record sales of digital circuit multiplication equipment (DCME) accounted for 42% of total first quarter revenues.

Revenues for the first quarter rose to \$84.7m. from \$63.6m.

The company reported a drop in gross profit margin to 55% from 56%.

Earnings per share rose to \$0.24 from \$0.18, based on a 76,097,000 weighted average number of shares outstanding in the first quarter and 73,320,000 in the same period last year.

ECI yesterday reported a 40 percent fall in first quarter net profits to \$7.1 million from \$12m. in the same period last year.

Its shares were down 2 to 31.25

in late afternoon trading on New York's NASDAQ market.

Total revenues rose to \$159.5m. from \$120.9m.

However, gross margins slipped to 31% from 35%.

Forty percent of sales, \$64.5m., were to the military sector. Subsidiary Elscint had 34% of sales, \$54m., while 26% of sales, \$41m., came from new businesses geared toward the civilian market.

Per share earnings fell to \$0.38 from \$0.65, based on a weighted average of shares of 18,606,000 in 1994 and 18,444,000 in 1993.

Software security developer Aladdin Knowledge Systems announced a 94 percent increase in first quarter net profits to \$525,000 from \$270,000 in the same period last year.

Its shares were up 1/2 to 6 1/2 in afternoon trading on New York's NASDAQ market.

Revenues rose to \$1.5 million from \$881,000. Gross margins went up to 68% from 64%.

Earnings per share fell to \$0.12, based on 4,275,000 shares outstanding.

Dankner joins Postal Authority's tender

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

DANKNER Investments has joined the Idan-Elitex Group to compete for the Postal Authority's Shoham joint venture tender, the companies announced yesterday.

The Shoham division is the Postal Authority's value-added telecommunications service division, which has licenses to supply such services here and from Israel worldwide.

The division has licenses to supply fax and forward services, as well as satellite and other communication services.

According to the contract, the winner will expand and operate Shoham's services and strengthen its marketing network.

Two other groups are participating in the Postal Authority tender to become a partner in Shoham - the Idan Dankner Investment Group, headed by businessman Eliezer Fishman, and a group made up of Tadiran and Elbit.

Communications Ministry to announce second cellular phone service tender today

JUDY SIEGEL

THE winner of the public tender to provide cellular phone service in competition with Motorola-Bezek's Telephone will be announced by the Communications Ministry today.

The tender was issued by the ministry half a year ago.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni gave the tender committee, chaired by her director-general Shlomo Vax, six months to choose the winner.

Six consortiums competed in the tender in February. The groups are:

- the Aurio/Southwestern Bell (US)/Cial and Iturit Group,
- the Telrad/Hapoolim Investments/McCaw (US) and Belzberg Investments (Canada) Group,
- the Bell South (US)/Safra Brothers/Discount Investments and Israel Aircraft Industries Group,
- the Tadiran/Elbit/Sprint (US) and Canadian Telecom Group,
- the Dankner Investments/IBM

Corporation/Cellular Communications International Inc. (US)/Vanguard (US)/Idan and Elitex Group,

and the Eliezer Fishman/Haim Bar-On/Ampal/Fairchild (US)/Qualcom (US)/SFR (France) and Bear Stearns Investments (US) Group.

A Bezek spokesman yesterday said that competition in cellular phone service should "liven up" the field.

Motorola-Bezek's prices for service have already dropped, and a change in regulations that frees the Telephone owner from having to pay for "air time" for incoming calls has reduced costs even further.

Other members of the tender committee were Baruch Tepper (deputy accountant general in the Finance Ministry); Communications Ministry legal adviser Menahem Ohai; Treasury budget division official Avigdor Schwartzman and Rafi Haviva, of the Communications Ministry.

Budget at NIS 2.3b. surplus

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE state budget registered a NIS 2.3 billion surplus in the first third of the year, as tax revenues jumped and expenditures were moderate, deputy capital market supervisor Moshe Sagui reported yesterday.

Although the government still expects to finish the year with its budgeted deficit of NIS 7.5b., it will slow down its borrowing activities this month and in June to limit the diversion of funds from the capital markets, Sagui said.

The government intends this month to raise NIS 700 million in tradeable bonds and NIS 500m. in non-tradeable bonds.

By contrast, Sagui expects the government to redeem NIS 2.4b. in bonds. This means that redemptions will exceed borrowing by NIS 1.2b. this month.

Sagui predicts that in June the government will not exceed by much the NIS 700m. borrowed this month, and the budget will still register a surplus.

About a third of the new government tradeable bonds on the market are unlinked, as the Treasury is making a concerted effort, in the present era of lower inflation, to delink a larger proportion of its debt.

According to Sagui, by the end of the year four percent of all tradeable government bonds in circulation will be unlinked, compared to 2% at the end of last year.

Sagui reported that the Treasury has received many queries as to the government request for proposals for establishing a second stock market.

First Int'l Mortgage Bank posts 4% rise in net profits

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE First International Mortgage Bank of Israel, a subsidiary of First International Bank, yesterday reported a four percent growth in net profits for the first quarter of the year to NIS 3.64 million from NIS 3.5m. in the corresponding period last year.

The net return on equity fell to 7.9% on an annual basis from 8.3%. Earnings from financing operations before provisions for doubtful debts fell 4.4% to NIS 11.68m. from NIS 12.21m. Provisions for doubtful debts fell 2.8% to NIS 2.52m.

Atzmot Mortgage & Development Bank, a subsidiary of First International Bank, completed the first quarter with a 14.4% drop in net profits to NIS 1.38m. from a NIS 1.62m. net profit during the same period last year.

The net return on equity fell to 7.5% from 9.6%.

Poalei Agudat Israel Bank, a subsidiary of First International Bank, ended the first quarter with a 138.5% growth in net profits to NIS 1.74m. from NIS 730,000 in the same period last year.

The net return on equity increased to 17.6% from 8.2%. Management attributed the improved earnings to a 14.2% growth in earnings from financing operations to NIS 5.04m. The higher profits were also due to the 18.1% drop in provisions for doubtful debts to NIS 370,000 from NIS 452,000.

Eurotech high-tech venture capital fund formally launched

RACHEL NEIMAN

EUROTECH, a high-tech venture capital fund, was formally launched yesterday.

Partners in the fund include German industrial giant Daimler Benz, Federman Industries and DEG, who each hold 20 percent, and government-sponsored Yozma Venture Capital, which holds 40%.

The fund intends to invest in

bedding companies in transportation, communications, electronics, electro-optics, information systems, environmental planning and protection.

Eurotech's partners will also provide administrative, strategic and technological support, as well as access to a world-wide marketing network.

Aharon Beth-Halachmi, head of the Eurotech fund and general manager of Federman Industries,

said the fund has already raised some \$10 million, which it hopes to double by year's end.

Venture capital has been under fire recently for not taking risks, preferring instead to pump up middle-range companies.

Beth-Halachmi cited the partners' outstanding abilities in industry as one of Eurotech's unique aspects, making the fund more attractive to potential investors.

"The very fact that we are in-

volved [with a start-up] will draw in others," he said.

Daimler Benz, which owns Mercedes-Benz and AEG, has interests in all areas of private and mass transport, communications, high-tech and aeronautics through DASA (Deutsche Aerospace).

The Federman Group, owner of the Dan Hotel chain, is active in industry and high-tech through ownership of El-Op and as a 50% partner (with Elbit) in Hatz VaKef, a developer of remote-controlled flight equipment.

DEG, a German-government sponsored program created to advance the economies of Third World countries, is to provide contacts through a world-wide network.

Yozma was founded by the government to fulfill three main goals - to encourage high-tech industrial growth, involve international companies in Israel's technological sector and encourage the development of venture capital in the private sector.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.5.94)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.000	4.375	5.000
German mark (€100,000)	3.625	3.875	4.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.125	4.500	5.000
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	2.875	2.875	2.875
Yen (10 million yen)	0.625	0.750	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Sheqel Foreign Exchange Rates* (10.5.94)			
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES	
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Currency basket	3.2450	3.2820	3.2820
U.S. dollar	2.9801	3.0222	3.08
German mark	1.7972	1.8225	1.77
Pound sterling	4.4717	4.5407	4.39
French franc	0.5246	0.5320	0.51
Japanese yen (100)	2.8926	2.9332	2.84
Dutch florin	1.6028	1.6254	1.58
Swiss franc	2.1072	2.1369	2.07
Swedish krona	0.3985	0.4040	0.38
Norwegian krona	0.4144	0.4203	0.41
Danish krona	0.4584	0.4659	0.45
Finnish mark	0.5543	0.5621	0.55
Canadian dollar	2.1673	2.1977	2.13
Australian dollar	2.1459	2.1771	2.10
S. African rand	0.8301	0.8412	0.81
Belgian franc (10)	0.5793	0.5866	0.56
Austrian schilling (10)	2.5562	2.5822	2.51
Italian lira (1000)	1.8842	1.9107	1.84
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.13
Egyptian pound	2.4676	2.5164	0.86
Irish punt	4.3638	4.4252	4.28
Spanish peseta (100)	2.1719	2.2222	2.13

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
Correction

In the Administration's notice on p. 4 of yesterday's paper, offering building lots in Ashkelon, the tender numbers were omitted. These are:

Lot No. 1 — Tender 90/94/Yod Mem
Lot No. 2 — Tender 91/94/Yod Mem
Lot No. 3 — Tender 92/94/Yod Mem
Lot No. 4 — Tender 93/94/Yod Mem

Bundesbank may cut discount as repo falls

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — Germany's Bundesbank sanctioned another small cut in a key money market rate yesterday, and economists expected the move to be backed by a cut in the more important discount rate either today or later this month.

The Bundesbank allowed its securities repurchase rate, or repo rate, to drop to 5.35 percent from 5.41 percent last week, the latest in a series of similar-sized weekly cuts.

Analysts said the central bank was clearly paving the way for a new cut in its 5% discount rate, which usually forms the floor for money market rates. But opinions were divided on whether this week was the right time for the

move.

For Norbert Braams at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, a cut in the 5% rate today is all but certain. He cited comments by Bundesbank board members last week which played down the medium-term significance of bloated money supply growth and said a weak dollar could hurt the German economy.

The Bundesbank and some 16 other central banks plowed into currency markets last week to give the dollar support.

"If you take all of this together only one option seems possible — a rate cut," Braams said. "I believe we will see a cut tomorrow, possibly of 1/2 point."

The Bundesbank last cut its

discount and Lombard rates by 1/4 point each to 5.0% and 6.5% respectively on April 15.

But other analysts believe the Bundesbank will wait for fresh news on its two main indicators — inflation and M3 money supply — before cutting its leading rates for the 11th time this cycle.

Final data published yesterday for April annual inflation and March M3 growth showed a positive downward revision on the inflation figure to 3.1% from 3.2%, but a small rise in annualized M3 growth to 15.4% from 15.2%.

M3 — bloated by special factors which have prompted investors to hold high liquidity positions — is already far beyond a 6% target

ceiling and analysts are waiting to see just how temporary these special factors will prove.

New figures are likely to be released before the next central bank council meeting on May 26.

"I think the continued problems surrounding M3 and the fact that inflation is showing relatively little progress means the Bundesbank will be hesitant to act," said Bank in Liechtenstein chief economist Wolfgang Leoni.

"I would not rule out that a step could come in May," he said, adding that the Bundesbank still has room to allow its 5.35% repo rate to ease further in the next two weeks.

Commerzbank economist Juergen Pfister also said he does

not expect any change in credit policy at this week's meeting.

But speculation remained in German financial markets, with some traders noting they had been caught out several times in the past by the argument that the Bundesbank would wait for more data before moving on rates.

Among German bond traders, few are prepared to rule out a move, while around half of the share traders contacted are expecting some action.

"For me the main argument against a cut this week is that there is so much speculation that a rate cut will come," one money market trader said. "The Bundesbank never likes to pander to markets."

BBC TV gets commercial partner for int'l ventures

LONDON (AP) — The BBC is joining forces with media company Pearson PLC to set up commercial television ventures in Europe, Asia, and the Americas, the companies announced yesterday.

They hope to launch their new global alliance before year's end with two commercial European channels, one featuring entertainment and the other featuring news and information.

The BBC and Pearson hope to attract a third partner to share in the costs, estimated at £30 million. If not, Pearson will put up all of the cash.

The BBC will invest no cash, but it is putting up its recognition as "the world's most powerful broadcast brand," and hopes the partnership will ease the burden on British television owners, who each pay a yearly TV license fee of £84.50 to fund the British Broadcasting Corp.

The companies hope to move into the other global markets lat-

er, but top executives declined during a news conference to offer any specifics about when the ventures would begin or who potential third partners might be.

BBC director-general John Birt later disputed the suggestion that the alliance with Pearson could be the first step toward the BBC going totally commercial.

"It's a question of exploiting our assets," Birt said, adding that there will be a strong division between programming funded from the television license fees and the new international commercial operations.

The government's long-range intentions for funding of the BBC will be made public in a report due out later this year.

Shares in Pearson, which owns such media properties as the *Financial Times*, Penguin, and Thames Television, rose by about 4% in early trading on the London Stock Exchange.

Britain now a fast-food, wine-drinking society

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain has become a fast-food, convenience society in the last 20 years, with its population forced to become more self-reliant, a survey of consumer habits said.

The survey, to be released today by the private market research group Mintel, revealed a society owning more cars, drinking more wine, and taking more holidays, but consumer confidence still suffering the after-effects of the recent recession.

Overall the survey shows that since 1977 there has been an 8% drop in personal spending on goods such as food and alcohol, with an equivalent rise in expenditure on services, mainly in the leisure and financial products sector.

The report, aimed at helping companies pinpoint future markets for their goods, predicted that a rise in the numbers of women working, later marriages and higher divorce rates would lead to more numerous, but smaller, households.

It advised companies to target cash-rich "empty nesters" — middle-aged couples whose children have left home and have money and time to spend on foreign holidays and leisure products.

Mintel painted a picture of a society eating in "cafeteria kitchens" in the home, having abandoned formal meal times in favor of snack food and TV dinners.

Britons also prefer one-stop shopping, and want to drive to their store, it said.

More than 70% of adults bought takeaway meals in 1993, compared to 44% in 1975, a rise that shows no sign of slowing, according to Mintel.

Changes in the political environment have led to a growth in the demand for security services, as individuals have been encouraged, or even forced to drop expectations that the state will provide, said Mintel's consumer research manager Angela Hughes.

Britons were leaving home, taking out mortgages and buying cars at ever younger ages, the report said, but economic recession in the late 1980s braked such trends. Young people were forced to stay with their families or even return home after university or college as job opportunities were squeezed.

Recent economic improvement is only just beginning to raise consumer confidence, it said, with pent-up demand being released first in the leisure industry.

Mintel picked out the traditional British pub as the place where less money might be spent in the future, with demographic changes meaning there will be fewer wealthy young people whose favorite leisure activity is sitting on a bar stool.



Toilet attendant John Dervan, 62, stands with his mop and bucket outside the public toilet in Westbourne Grove, west London. The toilet was named 'Building of the Year' by the Royal Fine Arts Commission. (AP)

SmithKline Beecham to sell generic Tagamet

PHILADELPHIA (Reuters) — SmithKline Beecham Corp. said yesterday it will make available in the US a generic form of Tagamet, just days before the US patent for its billion dollar ulcer treating drug is to expire.

SmithKline said the product will be manufactured under the label of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Penn Labs Inc.

Penn Labs will supply generic cimetidine, the active component of Tagamet, to Lederle Standard Products, a unit of American Cyanamid Co. and will also supply generic cimetidine under its own label.

The US patent on Tagamet, one of the most successful prescription drugs in history, is to expire on May 17.

It said Lederle has special

strengths in distributing to wholesalers and to chain and independent drug stores while Penn Labs will take advantage of SmithKline Beecham's marketing to hospitals and managed-care organizations.

"With the US patent on Tagamet soon to expire, our corporate strategy continues to emphasize maintaining the steady flow of new SmithKline Beecham pharmaceutical products," said Jerry Karabelas, President of SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals.

"We expect Penn Labs to become an important supplier of generic cimetidine through SB and through Lederle, which has a record of success in distributing generic drugs through retail channels."

SmithKline's shares rose 62.5 cents to \$30.125 in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Zurich Insurance posts 24.8% profit rise

ZURICH (Reuters) — Zurich Insurance Co., Switzerland's largest insurer and one of the largest in the world, reported a 24.8% rise in 1993 group net profits to SF613.2 million (\$431.4 million) from SF491.4m. (\$346m.).

The company also raised its dividend to SF20 (\$14.07) per share from SF17.50 (\$12.31) per registered and bearer share paid on 1992 results. Premium revenue for the group rose to SF24.9 billion (\$17.5 billion) from SF21.5b. (\$15.1b.) in 1993.

Zurich Insurance said the growth in 1993 was due largely to acquisitions and to the inclusion of additional companies in its consolidated accounts.

WORLD BRIEFS

BSN changes name to Danone: France's food giant BSN said yesterday it will change its name to Danone, its leading yoghurt brand, and buy Spanish brewer San Miguel.

The expansion into the beer business will cost BSN FR 1.9 billion over four years and make BSN's Mahou unit Spain's leading brewer with output of over 7.5 million hectoliters a year, chairman Antoine Riboud told reporters.

BSN already holds a 24% stake in San Miguel and also produces the well-known beers Kronenbourg, Kanterbrau, and 1664. (Reuters)

Degussa profit up 58%: German chemicals and metals group Degussa AG yesterday posted a 58% rise in group pre-tax profit for the first half of its business year, as foreign earnings improved.

Rising sales and results were registered in North America and Asia, but also in some European countries in the first half, Degussa said. "In Germany, on the other hand, there was still no evidence of a significant improvement," it said.

Group pre-tax profit for the six months to March 31 rose to DM 121m. from DM 77m., on sales of DM 7.15b., up from DM 7b. At the parent level, pre-tax profit climbed to DM 51m. from DM 41m.

In its first-half report, Degussa said it expected profits to grow more slowly in the second half of its 1993/94 business year ending September 30. (Reuters)

Two British retailers sell 40 stores: Two of Britain's leading retailers on yesterday made long-awaited changes to their loss-making Do It All home improvement chain.

W.H. Smith Group Plc said it and Boots Co Plc had reached agreement to sell off 40 stores.

Sixty more stores are scheduled for disposal, leaving a portfolio of about 140 stores, "all well sited and in good catchment areas," said W.H. Smith in a statement.

As a result W.H. Smith said it would make an exceptional provision of around £60m., net of tax, in the Do It All accounts for the year to end February 1994, to cover the costs of the disposal program and write offs. It is expected the provision will be split equally between Boots and W.H. Smith. (Reuters)

Siemens rebuffs Slovak bribery charges: The German engineering conglomerate Siemens AG yesterday denied public charges that it had paid a \$5m. bribe to Slovakian Deputy Premier Roman Kovac to win a contract for the sale of medical equipment.

"These allegations are totally without basis," a Siemens spokesman said. "The name of our company is being dragged into a political fight."

Former Slovak prime minister Vladimir Meciar has leveled a string of allegations, the latest in a televised debate on Sunday, that Siemens bribed Kovac to win the contract. Kovac has denied the allegations. (Reuters)

Roche sees higher 1994 profit: Swiss pharmaceuticals group Roche Holding AG yesterday confidently forecast another year of growing profits despite a multi-billion dollar bid to take over US drug firm Syntex Corp.

Company president Fritz Gerber told a news conference that Roche would remain true to its past strategy of focusing on research which leads to unique and profitable drugs. (Reuters)

British chain sees no end to price war: Britain's leading discount food chain Kwik Save Group Plc said yesterday its half year profits rose 7% to £65.4m., but saw no end to the price war squeezing supermarket profits.

Kwik Save, which has 838 stores around Britain and plans to open 80 more this year, said the battle for market share showed no signs of abating. (Reuters)

LOT signs initial deal with AMR: Poland's state-owned LOT airline yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding with AMR Corp.'s American Airlines which should pave the way to wide cooperation between the two. LOT's president said.

"This memorandum is the first step towards detailed agreements which will regulate our cooperation in the years to come," Jan Litwinski said. (Reuters)

Saudi Arabia awards AT&T \$4b. contract

WASHINGTON — After an intense campaign by AT&T Corp. and the Clinton administration, Saudi Arabia Monday awarded AT&T a \$4 billion contract to modernize the country's telecommunications system. It is the largest telecommunications equipment contract awarded outside the US, AT&T said.

Saudi Arabia's decision last year to spend billions on a state-of-the-art national system, which will include fiber-optic lines and a wireless phone system, set off an intense struggle among the world's major manufacturers of telecommunications equipment. AT&T beat out aggressive bids by Siemens AG of Germany, Alcatel Alsthom SA of France, Northern Telecom Ltd. of Canada, and a joint offer from LM Ericsson of Sweden and NEC Corp. of Japan.

AT&T executives said the Clinton administration played an important role in winning the contract.

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown pleaded AT&T's case with Saudi officials on two trips over the past year, according to AT&T officials. Secretary of State Warren Christopher also spoke to Saudi officials about the project during a recent trip.

The Saudi victory was the second large overseas award for

AT&T in recent weeks. Two weeks ago, China signed telecommunications equipment contracts expected to produce more than \$500 million in revenue for AT&T.

Under the Saudi contract, AT&T will build a fiber-optic network that will use the "digital" technology of computers to provide advanced phone service to about 1.5 million subscribers. The new system will allow Saudi Arabia to almost double the number of phone subscribers among its 16 million people, said Dan Hesse, president of AT&T's Network Systems International, which is based in the Netherlands.

In addition, the contract includes the construction of a digital wireless network capable of handling about 200,000 customers.

The entire project is expected to take about seven years to complete, Hesse said.

An AT&T spokesman said it was unclear what impact the additional business would have on employment at AT&T, which announced earlier this year it would phase out 15,000 jobs in another part of its business — its long-distance service. (The Washington Post)

Paramount's new moneyman makes his presence felt

HOLLYWOOD — Surrounded by translucent turquoise waters and virtually cut off from the world of Hollywood, Paramount Pictures Chairman Sherry Lansing and her director husband, William Friedkin, were vacationing on the Caribbean island of Mustique when the urgent phone call came.

For three days, Lansing's corporate boss, Jonathan Dolgen, had been holed up in London trying to hammer out a deal to bring actor Michael Douglas' production company to the studio's Hollywood lot.

Disney and Warner Bros. were also aggressively vying for Douglas and his new producing partner Steven Reuther to set up shop under their banners.

After marathon negotiations, Dolgen had the financial aspects of the deal nailed down, but told Lansing over the phone that she had to immediately fly to New York to work out the creative aspects of the arrangement with Douglas.

"But all I have are a pair of shorts and bathing suit," said Lansing, as waves lapped in the distance. Scrounging up a pair of jeans, she rushed for a plane.

As Lansing walked into the elegant dining room of the Carlyle Hotel in Manhattan on May 1, Douglas took one look at her and quipped, "What is this? The head of Paramount Pictures is coming into the Carlyle's dining room wearing blue jeans?"

Sharing a laugh, the longtime friends who had collaborated on such films as *Fatal Attraction* and *Black Rain* then got down to business.

The Douglas deal couldn't have come at a better time for Paramount. For months, it had struggled to get movies made while an air of uncertainty hung over the studio because of a corporate merger battle being waged on Wall Street. All Hollywood wondered who would take control of the parent corporation — Sumner Redstone's Viacom Inc. or Barry Diller's QVC Network? Redstone finally won.

Now, there is a new corporate ownership in New York, and Dolgen has been brought in to oversee movies and television as chairman of Viacom Entertainment Group. Dolgen's role involves signing off on Paramount budgets and helping line up financing for co-productions, while Lansing retains authority to pick the movies the studio will make.

A former Sony Pictures Entertainment executive, Dolgen was installed only five weeks ago as head of newly created Viacom Entertainment Group. He came to Paramount with a reputation as a fiscal hawk — although while at Sony he pulled off some big-number production deals with director James Brooks and actor Damon Wayans.

Still, his hiring by Paramount prompted speculation that he would aggressively

slash costs and make sweeping changes in the studio hierarchy.

While the costs to Paramount of the Douglas/Reuther deal have not been disclosed, the deal itself has been well received by the film community. Douglas and Reuther are reportedly in the midst of lining up independent production coin from foreign sources for the venture, while Paramount will presumably be responsible for marketing/distribution and other costs.

"We don't know how much of the kingdom they had to give away to get that deal," said entertainment attorney David Colden, "but, nonetheless, in terms of visibility to the film community and in terms of reducing their downside risks, my suspicions are it's a fairly favorable deal."

"I think when you hire Jonathan Dolgen, you send a signal," said one agent. "He knows what his mandate was and he's going to take some dramatic steps to put his imprimatur on the state of being of Paramount."

"When's the midnight massacre?" the agent then quipped.

Asked whether Paramount was in for massive cuts, Dolgen declined to get specific but said every company must look for ways to "run our business as sensibly as we can." However, he strongly denied rumors that any high-level staff shake-up was in the works.

"There is no bloodletting," Dolgen said. "We're just going to try and marshal our assets to run our business as sensibly as we can and move forward."

Rumors of a bloodletting began almost from the day Dolgen arrived. Seeking an office as large as Lansing's, he demanded that distribution chief Barry London and production head John Goldwyn relocate.

Dolgen then turned Goldwyn's office into a conference room, and London was sent to Dressing Room Building 100 so that Dolgen could have an office and conference room.

But London, who has held his post or variations of it since 1984, is said to have plunged into a funk after the move. Sources said London has been going through "a kind of midlife crisis, where he was seeing too much turmoil in the company" and for a long time has considered relinquishing his studio executive stripes to become a producer.

"Barry, who always needs human contact, spun out over all this, and it created sort of a dark malaise over all the company because he wasn't being wooed or comforted," said one source.

Goldwyn, at least, remained in the Administration Building, just down the hall from Dolgen. But in what some consider a face-saving move, the production president wants to tear down the wall to an adjacent business affairs of-

fice. Goldwyn claims it is simply a move to create additional file space.

Some also saw signs of pending changes when Lansing tossed a party for London on March 29, his 23rd anniversary with the studio.

London had been called into a conference room ostensibly for a meeting and was surprised to find a cake and champagne.

The party would have gone largely unnoticed had it been London's 20th or 25th anniversary, industry insiders said. But 23rd?

"It was strange," said one source, wondering if this was a send-off of some sort.

If all this speculation sounds a bit petty, it clearly underscores the ego-driven nature of what goes on in executive suites.

The combination of being ousted from their offices and London's odd 23rd anniversary party was enough to send tongues wagging, much to the displeasure of London and Goldwyn.

"I'm certainly not in a funk or a midlife crisis," protested London. But he added, "You reach points in your life where you have to reach certain decisions."

Adding to the already uncertain air and jittery nerves among Paramount insiders about potentially more executive changes in the production ranks, Gold-

wyn — who has been in his current post for years — says, "I've got some time on my contract."

He added, "Sherry and Jonathan have gone out of their way to embrace me."

A Paramount source said in fact Goldwyn has recently been offered a contract extension. He acknowledged that, in his position, there are always people gunning for his job. But how something as mundane as office space can trigger gossip is beyond him.

This summer could be a critical period for Paramount, which has a lot of money riding on several big \$40 million-plus movies: *Beverly Hills Cop III*, starring Eddie Murphy; *Clear and Present Danger*, starring Harrison Ford; and *Forrest Gump*, starring Oscar-winner Tom Hanks.

There are especially high hopes for the \$45 million *Forrest Gump*, directed by Robert Zemeckis, which, according to sources, has received the highest test scores in Paramount history. The movie, which has a lot of special effects and also stars Robin Wright, opens July 6.

Another possible sleeper for Paramount could be the TV-to-movie version of *Lasie*, a family movie whose trailer was very well received by exhibitors at the recent ShoWest convention in Las Vegas. (Los Angeles Times)

Bloom edges by German opponent

HEATHER CHAIT

GILAD Bloom endured a trying first round match yesterday in the Eisenberg Jerusalem Open, just wrenching victory away from Germany's Axel Finberg in three sets.

Fellow Davis Cup player Eyal Erlich pulled off the surprise of the day by beating Germany's Michael Gieseler 7-6, 7-6.

Top seed Bloom, whose ranking slipped this week from 143 to 183, unearthed his notorious fighting powers to win 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 against the world's No. 254 player.

After an assertive first set, Bloom began the second badly and his opponent was not slow to capitalize.

The last set saw Bloom's aggression come to the fore as he devoured every ball, moving nimbly about the court and smashing volleys into unreachable corners.

The hopes pinned on 17-year-old Erlich, who paired Amos Mansdorf in the recent Davis Cup doubles tie against the Czech Republic, were rewarded yesterday. Qualifier Erlich uprooted his German opponent, who, at 196 in the world, is 445 places above Erlich's 196.

Bloom and Erlich are the surviving Israelis to enter today's second round after sixth seed Eyal Ran lost yesterday, joining Ofer Sela and Noam Behr who exited on Monday.

Ran (No. 185) never looked in form against Portugal's Joao Cunha-Silva (176), a veteran Davis Cup player, losing a marathon match 6-3, 1-6, 0-6.

In a match marked by baseline play and unforced errors by both players, Ran missed out on his chances at net, choosing to stay back and match the swarthy Cunha-Silva's demanding groundshots.

Other seeds to fall like dominoes were Mark Kaplan from the US, seeded third, who lost to Italy's Davide Sanguineti 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 and fifth seed South Africa's David Nainkin who fell to qualifier Dick Norman of Belgium 7-6 (10/8), 6-1.

Yesterday's historic events in his homeland far south had their repercussions on second seed South Africa's Kevin Ullyett.

Dressed in colors distinctly similar to the new flag, Ullyett displayed a triumphant style at net to down Holland's Dennis Van Schepingen 7-5, 6-2.

In today's second round play, starting at 2 p.m., Bloom meets Patrick Baur while Erlich faces Cunha-Silva.

Trial in wake of soccer killing begins

CARDIFF, Wales (AP) — Two men accused of "the ultimate act of football hooliganism" went on trial yesterday charged with murdering an elderly soccer fan at a Wales World Cup qualifying game.

Welshmen Kerry Still, 35, and his brother Andrew McAllister, 31, are accused of launching a powerful marine distress rocket after the final whistle of the Wales-Romania match at Cardiff Arms Park on November 17.

Still, an electrician, and McAllister, a carpet fitter, have pleaded not guilty to the murder charge.

All-female baseball team takes on male All-Stars

FORT MILL, S.C. (AP) — When this baseball game was over, it was tough to tell the losers from the winners — even though the final score was 19-0.

The Colorado Silver Bullets proved Sunday that success doesn't always come on the field. They became the first all-female team in history to take on a professional men's team.

The outcome was never in doubt, as the Northern League All-Stars — whose roster included former major league stars Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd and Leon Durham — pounded out 21 hits against four Colorado pitchers.

Meanwhile, the Silver Bullets managed only two singles and committed six errors. But when it was over, no one seemed to pay too much attention to the statistics.

Many of the 8,179 fans who came to watch the Mother's Day matinee realized they were watching history being made. For some young fans, it was a watershed event.

"I think it gives young girls like me a chance to have role models," said 11-year-old Rachel Hendrick, who stayed to the end with her sister, Kristen, 15, and their father, David.

The game was not a pretty sight, given the Silver Bullets' six errors — four by shortstop Shae Sloan. Meanwhile, the All-Stars rapped out three home runs and eight doubles.

"I'm disappointed but not with the loss," said Silver Bullets manager Phil Nickro. "I am disappointed with the way we didn't catch the ball or throw the ball like

Rangers reach Eastern finals



NEW YORK (AP) — For the first time in eight years, the New York Rangers are in the league semifinals.

Brian Leetch set up New York's first three goals and scored the winner with 3:28 left Monday night, sending the Rangers to a 4-3 victory over the Washington Capitals. Mike Richter preserved the victory with 15 seconds left, stopping Kevin Hatcher's shot through a screen from the left circle.

The Rangers won the series 4-1 and will play New Jersey or Boston in the Eastern Conference final. The Devils lead that series 3-2 after beating Boston 2-0 in the only other game Monday night.

Vancouver and Dallas were scheduled to play last night, with the Canucks leading 3-1. In the other conference semifinal, Toronto and San Jose also were set to play last night, with that series tied 2-2.

Adam Graves scored two goals and Esa Tikkanen had one for New York, all in the first period. Kevin Hatcher, Shawn Anderson and Sylvain Cote scored for Washington.

Leetch broke a 3-3 tie when he took a pass in the slot from Sergei Zubov, skated in and beat Rick Tabaracci with a forehand shot. It was the first goal scored against Tabaracci, who made 24 straight saves after relieving starter Don Beaupre.

New York hasn't been to a conference final since 1986, when the



NO PUCKS ALLOWED — Bruins goalie Jon Casey sprawls in front of the net to make the save while teammate Al Iafrate and the Devils' Bernie Nicholls look on.

Rangers lost to Montreal. Devils 2, Bruins 0. Martin Brodeur stopped 22 shots, making his coach's goaltending gamble pay off.

Corey Millen and Bob Carpenter scored in the second period as host New Jersey won its third straight after trailing 2-0. New Jersey can advance to the second conference final in its history by winning today at Boston or at home Friday night.

Instead of sticking with goaltender Chris Terreri — the winner of Games 3 and 4 — New Jersey coach Jacques Lemaire went back to the rookie and Brodeur came up with his first career playoff shutout. He had four points, blank stops, including two in close in

the first period to keep the game scoreless.

Millen scored 1:23 into the second period. The Bruins never got the puck out of their zone and Carpenter got a loose puck near the end boards. He found Millen in the right faceoff circle, and Millen banked it off the goalpost past Bruins' goalie Jon Casey.

New Jersey got another goal with 22 seconds left in the second period when Bruins defenseman Ray Bourque tried to keep the puck in the Devils' zone and failed, sending Lemaire and Carpenter away on a 2-on-1.

Lemaire carried the puck into the Boston zone and sent a cross-ice pass that Carpenter one-timed between Ca-

sey's legs from the top of the right faceoff circle.

NHL Playoff Glance Semifinals (Best of 7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Monday's results:
NY Rangers 4, Washington 3
Rangers win series 4-1
New Jersey 2, Boston 0
New Jersey leads series 3-2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Toronto-San Jose tied 2-2
Vancouver leads Dallas 3-1

Yesterday's scheduled games:
Toronto at San Jose
Dallas at Vancouver
Today's games:
New Jersey at Boston

Lara hits third straight century

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — World record-breaking batsman Brian Lara scored his third century in a row — his second in the same game — to save his county, Warwickshire, from defeat by Leicestershire Monday.

The left-hander, who scored a Test record 375 for the West Indies against England three weeks ago, hit 22 fours in an innings of 120 not out. His is the first Warwickshire batsman to score centuries in his first three innings for the county.

His innings meant that Warwickshire, which was 61 for four chasing 285, held out at 206 for seven for a draw.

Lara's aggregate over his last four innings, including the Test record triple century, now is 748 runs at an average of 249.33.

He scored 147 for Warwickshire against Glamorgan on his county championship debut, then 106 in the first innings against Leicestershire.

"I'm feeling in great nick," Lara

said after his latest century. "I know the bad times will come some time but I'm hoping to keep this run going as long as possible."

"This innings was a bit different to the other centuries in that I was concentrating for most of the time in trying to keep the strike and save the game."

"It's nice to be in the record books," Lara said. "There were a lot of expectations placed on me after the Test record and I hope I've not let people down so far."

Final Championship Table

Sunny	P	W	L	D	pts	Run
Essex	2	2	0	0	8	45
Leicestershire	2	2	0	0	8	32
Gloucestershire	2	1	0	1	5	27
Warwickshire	2	1	0	1	5	27
Durham	2	1	0	1	5	26
Nottinghamshire	2	1	0	1	5	26
Hampshire	2	1	0	1	5	4
Derbyshire	2	1	0	1	5	8
Northamptonshire	2	1	0	1	5	6
Glamorgan	2	0	1	1	3	2
Somerset	1	0	1	0	2	5
Worcestershire	1	0	1	0	2	4
Kent	1	0	1	0	2	4
Lancashire	1	0	1	0	2	4
Middlesex	1	0	1	0	2	4
Sussex	1	0	1	0	2	2
Yorkshire	1	0	1	0	2	2

Knicks learn 'respect' for Jordan-less Bulls



NEW YORK (AP) — Under normal circumstances, teams coming off three consecutive championships are considered favorites until someone knocks them off.

The retirement of Michael Jordan changed everything for the Chicago Bulls, who spent the entire season trying to prove he wasn't the only reason they won all those titles. They've done a pretty good job of it so far, winning just two fewer regular-season games than in 1992-93 and sweeping Cleveland in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

Then the swaggering New York Knicks came along, and the Bulls almost caught them resting on the laurels of beating Chicago three times in four meetings this season.

"We didn't respect them at first," Knicks guard John Starks said of the Bulls' 15-point lead that New York finally overcame for a 90-86 victory in the series opener Sunday. "We took this team for granted. But they showed us they want to hold on to those rings. They're going to come hard at us. They don't have that icon anymore, and we were overconfident because we beat them three out of four."

Knicks coach Pat Riley, who won four titles as coach of the Los

Angeles Lakers, was surprised that anyone on the Knicks could have an overconfident attitude.

"We have no right to have anything but the greatest respect for them," Riley said Monday. "We have no room for any notion that we don't have to respect them. A lot of people seem to have the attitude that 'It's our turn' just because we've been through the playoffs with them for three years."

Riley resents talk that his team was lucky to win after trailing 67-52 with 3:15 left in the third quarter, or that the officials took the game away from the Bulls.

"We came back because of our effort and intensity, not luck. They blew a 15-point lead with 15 minutes to go. I don't think it had anything to do with the officials."

Patrick Ewing, who led the Knicks with 18 points and 12 rebounds, said lack of respect had nothing to do with the Knicks' slow start. "We just didn't come ready to play," he said. "We didn't do the job in the first three quarters."

NBA Playoff Glance Semifinals (Best of 7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
New York leads Chicago 1-0

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Phoenix leads Houston 1-0

No games Monday:

Yesterday's scheduled games:
East-Indiana at Atlanta
West-Denver at Utah
Today's games:
Chicago at New York
Phoenix at Houston

SPORTS BRIEFS

Finchem named to top golfing post

Tim Finchem, a White House adviser during the Carter Administration and the current deputy commissioner of the PGA Tour, will succeed Deane Beman as commissioner June 1.

Finchem was a unanimous choice of the Tour's Tournament Policy Board to succeed Beman, who announced March 1 that he would not seek another term for the post he has held for 20 years.

Girl hit by javelin

Sarah Miniman, a 17-year-old high school student, escaped serious injury Monday when struck in the left jaw by a javelin during track practice in Warren Township, New Jersey.

Bonds hits third career grand slam



BACK TO THE WALL — Rockies first baseman Andres Galaraga leaps in foul territory for a pop-up.

his third consecutive decision. He struck out seven and walked two.

Pat Kelly hit a two-run double and Mike Gallego doubled twice as the Yankees won their fourth straight game. Xavier Hernandez pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Brewers 7, Red Sox 4. Mike Ignasiak, recalled from the minors earlier in the day, combined with Jesse Orosco to retire 16 straight bat-

ters and send host Boston to its season-high fourth straight loss.

Ignasiak (1-0), making his second major league start, allowed two runs and five hits and no walks in five innings. He retired the last 10 batters he faced, and Orosco set down the next six hitters.

Danny Darwin (5-2) allowed four runs and seven hits in the first three innings, then retired 10 in a row.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	17	14	.548	2 1/2
New York	17	14	.548	2 1/2
Florida	17	15	.531	3
Philadelphia	12	18	.397	7 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	18	11	.623	—
Houston	17	13	.567	2
Pittsburgh	16	13	.552	2 1/2
St. Louis	16	13	.552	3
Chicago	8	20	.286	10

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	17	15	.531	—
Los Angeles	14	17	.452	2 1/2
Colorado	13	16	.448	2 1/2
San Diego	10	20	.333	8

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	20	10	.667	—
Baltimore	18	10	.655	1 1/2
Boston	20	11	.646	1 1/2
Toronto	12	15	.444	4
Detroit	12	16	.429	7

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	18	14	.563	—
Minnesota	16	14	.533	2
Kansas City	15	17	.471	1 1/2
Cleveland	14	14	.500	1
Minnesota	14	18	.438	8

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	13	16	.448	—
Seattle	13	17	.433	1 1/2
California	13	20	.394	2
Oakland	8	22	.260	5

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS:

San Francisco 12, Colorado 5
Pittsburgh 9, Florida 5
New York 5, Montreal 4
Atlanta 7, Philadelphia 2
Chicago 6, St. Louis 3
Los Angeles 9, Houston 8
Cincinnati 3, San Diego 2

MONDAY'S AL RESULTS:

New York 4, Cleveland 3
Milwaukee 7, Boston 4
Seattle 3, Chicago 2
Minnesota 3, Kansas City 5
California 1, Toronto 1
Texas 11, California 3
Only games scheduled

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REHAVIA, 4, large, convenient floor, Shabbat elevator, storeroom, parking, \$285,000. Ambassador. 02-618101.

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Meshulam arrested, one killed in Yehud siege

RAINE MARCUS

THE town of Yehud was turned into a war zone early yesterday morning as nearly 1,000 policemen surrounded the "fortress" of Uzi Meshulam and his followers. Meshulam himself had been tricked out of the house and arrested.

Following a six-week effort to get Meshulam and some 100 armed supporters out of the house, police mounted a massive operation which led to a shoot-out, in which one of Meshulam's supporters was killed.

After numerous delays, Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz gave the go-ahead for the operation on Monday night.

Meshulam's follower was shot dead when he opened fire on a police helicopter circling over the house and at police standing nearby. An anti-terror squad sharpshooter shot the man from a neighboring rooftop. A woman supporter was lightly wounded.

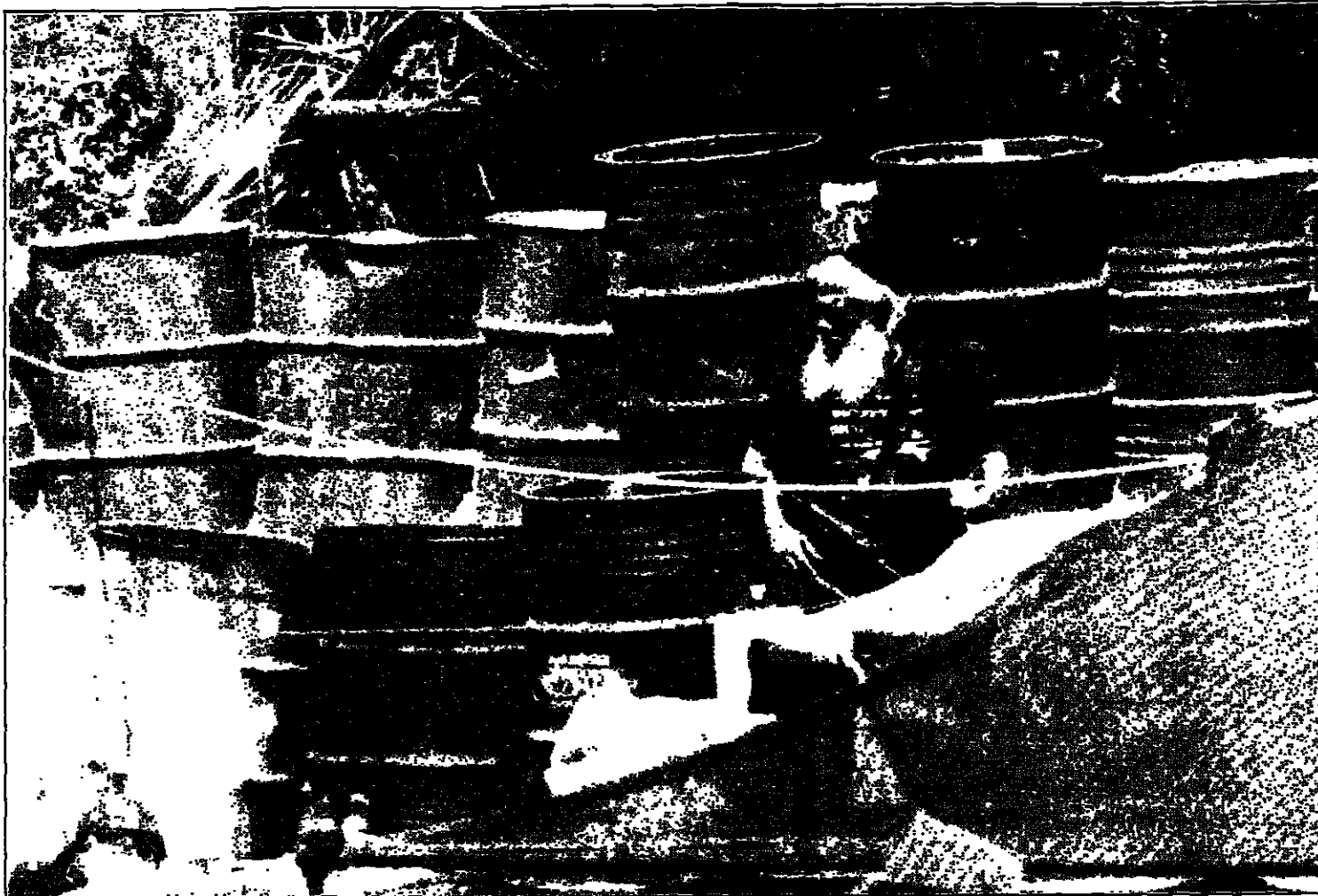
Meshulam himself was arrested two hours before the shoot-out, after he fell into a trap laid by the police. At 2:15 a.m., Hefetz, who has been criticized for conducting a regular dialogue with Meshulam, invited him to a meeting at the nearby Avia Hotel to discuss the affair.

When Meshulam, accompanied by eight armed guards, arrived at the hotel, he was immediately arrested by police.

Meanwhile, a few kilometers down the road at Ben-Gurion Airport, a massive force made up of elite police units was undergoing a briefing. Bus loads of police were also standing by as reinforcements.

At 4:15 a.m., police began to trickle into Yehud. Undercover detectives in old battered cars and new trucks patrolled the area, trying not to draw attention. Ambulances and fire engines also arrived in the quiet neighborhood.

Suddenly, scores of vehicles moved in from all directions, and hundreds of heavily armed police poured out, carrying ramps, electric generators, tables, and other



Armed with an Uzi, one of Uzi Meshulam's followers patrols the besieged compound in Yehud yesterday.

(Israel Sun)

equipment. Three armored IDF bulldozers were also positioned in the street.

The police began to disperse into their various units according to a carefully planned strategy. Dozens of sharpshooters were stationed on the rooftops, and other units hid in doorways. A squad, which was to back up the anti-terror unit that was to initially storm the house, crouched on the ground behind an apartment block.

As soon as police aimed floodlights at the besieged building, Meshulam's supporters, unaware of their leader's arrest, opened fire with an assortment of weap-

ons, including Uzis and M-16s.

As the sound of the gunfire increased, residents who had woken up and were peering through their windows were ordered back by police using bullhorns. A tape broadcast from a loudspeaker advised Meshulam's followers to "make a courageous move and turn themselves in, as Meshulam had done."

A few minutes later, an Israel Radio reporter broadcast that Meshulam had already been captured.

One man who tried to escape from the house was caught by police and hauled away.

Meanwhile, 200 additional po-

licemen arrested 50 of Meshulam's other followers, including his spokeswoman, Ora Shifrit, at their homes.

After some 20 minutes of shooting, mostly by Meshulam's supporters, police again appealed to those still in the house to surrender.

"If you surrender your weapons and walk over to the old age home, nothing bad will happen to you," blasted a recording.

But some 30 followers, including women and children, refused to surrender without orders from Meshulam. He refused to comply with police requests to urge his followers to surrender, and police

decided to stop firing, to avoid further bloodshed.

For several hours, a police negotiating team tried in vain to persuade the besieged followers to surrender.

In an interview recorded by Army Radio, one of the building's occupants said that police were trying to murder them and invited people to come and see for themselves "that the police had come to murder Jews."

After a month of meticulous planning, the police had apparently expected the raid to be over reasonably quickly, and were not prepared for another prolonged siege.

Yehud operation gets mixed reactions from local residents

RAINE MARCUS

YEHUD residents who had complained bitterly about what some described as Uzi Meshulam's "reign of terror" had mixed feelings about yesterday's raid.

One who agreed to be interviewed, Yossi Weisfogel, lives in a third-story apartment within Meshulam's line of fire. He was awakened by gunshots at around 4:20 a.m.

"As soon as I heard the shots, I instinctively knew it was the police raiding the house," said Weisfogel. "My wife and I grabbed our kids, aged two and six months, and crawled across the floor looking for shelter. The situation reminded me of a battlefield."

Weisfogel's window overlooks Meshulam's house. "Then I heard shots from our rooftop, only one floor above us. We could have been killed," he said, referring to shots fired by police sharpshooters.

Weisfogel criticized the police for not informing residents in advance of the operation and evacuating them. But a police officer said, "If we had told one resident, the whole neighborhood would have known."

Noise made by Meshulam and his supporters over the past six weeks disturbed them greatly, residents said.

"Singing through loudspeakers, weddings, the constant noise of carloads of followers, and loud music drove us crazy. The police had to do something, so long as there were no casualties. These people are Jews and not Arabs," said Weisfogel.

Throughout the morning, police cordoned off the whole neighborhood. Reporters and police crossing open spaces were ordered to crouch down to avoid possible gunshots.

Residents were prevented from leaving their homes to go to school or work.

An elderly man riding a bicycle across a nearby park was astonished when five policemen jumped on him to guard him from possible gunfire. Two couples who police recognized as Meshulam followers were arrested as they tried to enter the area. One man was identified as the same person seen wielding an M-16 rifle and a hatchet when the standoff began.

Medications running short as public sector pharmacists continue strike

JUDY SIEGEL

MEDICATIONS are beginning to run short in the public hospitals, causing the postponement of some non-emergency operations, as the strike by 1,200 public-sector pharmacists enters its fourth day. Their union said last night that the Treasury had not scheduled any additional meetings.

The union said that identical wage figures fed into the Treasury computer in Jerusalem produced "completely different figures" from those that emerged from the Histadrut's computer in Tel Aviv. Negotiations Monday night broke down, as the two sides argued which were correct.

The Finance Ministry spokesman declined to comment, except to say that "we don't negotiate while workers are striking."

The union's appeals committee, which fielded questions from duty pharmacists handling hospital

emergencies, was overloaded with queries.

"We automatically approve the supply of medications for life-and-death situations. But on others—which involve non-emergency humanitarian cases in which families are forced to run to a private pharmacy to buy a drug—we consider the pleas," a union spokesman said.

The pharmacists are asking for a 40 percent raise, similar to that already won by other sectors in the health field, but the Treasury is unwilling to grant more than 30 percent, the union said. No comment was available from the Health Ministry.

Kupat Holim Clalit is continuing to allow its members to fill prescriptions at all private pharmacies, if they purchase stamps in health fund offices, or if they pay NIS 4 for a "regular item" and NIS 8 for antibiotics.

Banker Ernst Japhet refuses to testify, verdict tomorrow

EVELYN GORDON

IT would be a grave injustice to convict former Bank Leumi chairman Ernst Japhet of banking crimes, when the state knew and approved of what he was doing, Japhet's attorney argued at his trial yesterday.

Since Japhet declined to testify and almost no new evidence was presented, yesterday's session was both the first and last day of testimony. Jerusalem District Court Judge Miriam Naor said she will give her verdict tomorrow.

Japhet is being charged with violating his duties as a bank manager, aggravated fraud, securities fraud, misleading customers and falsifying documents, on account of the stock manipulation which caused the

bank shares collapse of 1983. The resultant bailout cost the state some \$7 billion.

Other senior bankers connected with the collapse were convicted in February, but Japhet is being tried separately because he fled the country before the original trial began. If convicted, he is likely to be sentenced to at least eight months in prison and a NIS 600,000 fine—the same sentence given to Mordechai Einhorn, who was the No. 2 man in Bank Leumi at the time.

At yesterday's hearing, both Ya'acov Cohen, representing the state, and Yigal Arnon, representing Japhet, said they wanted

Japhet's trial to be as much as possible like that of the other bankers. For this reason, they agreed to consider all evidence presented in the original trial as if it was part of this trial as well, and, for the most part, to refrain from presenting new evidence. This included a decision by Japhet not to take the stand.

The only new evidence submitted by either side was two statements made by Japhet to investigators in 1986, submitted by the prosecution.

Naor noted that one item in these statements appeared to be a confession by Ja-

phet of something Einhorn and Leumi had denied in the earlier trial—that Leumi and Discount were each holding \$50 million worth of each other's shares. In the statement, Japhet had said the total value of Leumi's holdings was some \$360m—whereas, if the alleged Discount holdings were not included, the figure should have been around \$300m.

Naor also asked why the indictment against Japhet contained no charges of conspiracy, as had appeared in the original bank shares indictment. Cohen explained that since these charges were dropped from the first indictment, they were also omitted from Japhet's indictment.

Court petition charges ministry with bias

EVELYN GORDON

THE Housing Ministry's refusal to sell an apartment to a single person is unjust discrimination on the basis of marital status, a petition to the High Court of Justice charged yesterday.

Charlie Elbaz, 30, of Sderot, who currently lives with his parents, tried to buy an apartment in the town from the state-owned Shikun U'fitach housing company. However, the company said he could not buy in that project because he is single—despite the fact that he had a Housing Ministry certificate stating that, as an army veteran with no home of his own, he is eligible for ministry assistance in all parts of the country.

When Elbaz pressed the matter, the company said its orders from the ministry are to reserve these apartments for homeless families.

The ministry, the petition continued, then told him that it has frozen all apartment sales to singles, because it needs state-owned housing for families being removed from caravan sites.

Elbaz and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel petitioned the High Court, asking that this policy be overturned. The petition also requested an interim injunction to prevent the sale of any apartments in the project before the case is heard.

'Laniado Hospital on verge of financial collapse'

JUDY SIEGEL

NETANYA'S Laniado Hospital is on the "verge of financial collapse," its director-general, Dr. Gershon Lieder, warned yesterday. He attributed the crisis to the additional NIS 1 million in wages the hospital must pay following increases approved by the government.

The voluntary hospital is the second-largest employer in the city and its only general hospital. Laniado's 800 employees have not yet received their April salaries, and dozens of contractors who supply services have not been paid for six months.

"We have a catastrophe on our hands, and there is nowhere to turn," Lieder said.

Health Ministry director-general Prof. Mordechai Shani said that his office had not received any requests for financial help from the hospital; if it did, it would consider them, he said.

In January, Shani said, nurses

throughout the country received a 50 percent wage increase; in a different wage dispute, hospital clerks and maintenance workers got a 26% hike. In November, the financially-strapped Netanya Municipality stopped giving NIS 500,000 in monthly support to the hospital. Moreover, the various health funds owe Laniado NIS 10 million for hospitalization of their members.

As a result, Laniado has an operating deficit NIS 3 million deficit.

Unlike most of the other public hospitals in the country, Laniado gets neither owned or subsidized by the government or Kupat Holim Clalit. "We have no daddy in the government, but we are father to the 250,000 residents of Netanya," said Lieder.

The commercial banks cut credit to the hospital after the Netanya Municipality halted its aid.

Clergyman sues two others for slander

YIGAL KOTZER

THE Rev. Munir Kakish, of Ramallah, a minister in the Minnesota-based Community of Shem, yesterday filed a NIS 600,000 slander suit in Haifa District Court against the head of the church in Haifa, the Rev. Ross Dyars, and his deputy, the Rev. Edward Tanous.

In his complaint, Kakish claims the two defamed his good name and prevented him from being promoted in the church by saying that he was having an affair with the wife of a prominent church

member. He said that Tanous had refused to admit his children to the school he heads, saying their father is an adulterer.

Kakish also said anonymous letters had been sent to the church authorities in Minnesota, seeking to have him removed from his post.

Kakish urged the court to hold an immediate hearing so it could hear the testimony of his alleged paramour, who lives in Germany, and is here for a visit.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, nine of hearts, eight of diamonds and seven of clubs.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Treasury, social workers talks fail again

Unofficial meetings between the Treasury and the Association of Social Workers "blew up" yesterday, according to the union. Eli Ben-Gera, head of the union, said that Finance Minister Avraham Shohat has no interest in seeing the strike end. Ben-Gera said the walkout by the union's 9,000 members would continue and include stronger steps than those already taken.

As of today, the social workers' strike is three weeks old.

Ramle man stabbed to death

Ibrahim Abu Laban, 20, of Ramle was stabbed to death yesterday morning in the town; his cousin, Mohammed Abu Laban, 24, was also stabbed and seriously wounded. Police believe the stabbings were criminally motivated.

The stabbings occurred at 2:40 a.m. and a car was seen speeding from the scene of the crime. The two men were taken to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin, where Ibrahim Abu Laban died there of his wounds.

Man indicted for stabbing at Haifa pub

The Haifa District Attorney's Office yesterday issued an indictment against a Kiryat Haim man who allegedly stabbed the bouncer at a pub in Haifa's Alcohol Valley.

Yosef Gabai, 21, allegedly stabbed Albert Zizov, 21, during a fight. According to the indictment, Zizov punched Gabai in the face; Gabai responded by stabbing Zizov in his right eye with a broken bottle. Zizov, who underwent surgery for his wounds, will probably not regain sight in the eye.

Gabai's trial will begin in a few days.

Four years for tax fraud

A Ra'anana businessman convicted of tax fraud was sentenced to four years in prison and fined NIS 50,000 by the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

Yonatan Silverman, director of Y.Y. Silverman, which deals in gold and diamonds, falsified NIS 41 million worth of tax receipts.

The fraud occurred following his purchase of \$1.5m. worth of gold on credit from David Wolken. When Silverman could not pay his debt, Wolken suggested he give him fraudulent receipts, so that he could submit them to the tax authorities and thus recoup his money in tax savings.

FEDERATION OF PORAT YOSEPH YESHIVOT IN ISRAEL

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dedicated trustee

Adv. SHLOMO TOUSSIA-COHEN

We extend our deepest condolences to his wife and children and all the family, on their loss of their distinguished head of the family, and noblest among men.

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